

Mitterrand, Gorbachev discuss Mideast

MOSCOW (AP) — French President Francois Mitterrand met with President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday at a government dacha outside Moscow, and the Middle East and European issues were the principal topics, TASS reported. Mitterrand was met at Vnukovo-2 Airport by Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported. Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin said Gorbachev and Mitterrand would talk about disarmament, the Middle East and other world conflicts, and bilateral issues. They met at a dacha, or country house, near Novo-Ogaryovo, outside Moscow. TASS said: "The process of change which has swept the world calls for frequent personal contacts between leaders." Churkin said, Gorbachev and Mitterrand last met in Paris in November at the signing of the treaty on reducing conventional armed forces in Europe. Part of their discussion Monday was expected to touch on Western dissatisfaction with the Soviet's interpretation of that treaty.



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Iraqi envoy to Arab League arrives to take up post

CAIRO (AP) — Iraq's representative to the Arab League arrived Monday to take up his post at the Cairo-based organization. Nabil Najm Al Tikriti, recently appointed by his government as permanent representative to the league, was Iraq's ambassador to Egypt before Baghdad broke off relations with Cairo on Feb. 6. On the same day, Iraq also severed relations with Saudi Arabia, the United States, Britain, Italy and France, all major participants in the 33-nation coalition which fought against Iraq. "Iraq is seeking to turn to a new page to strengthen the Arab camp and learn from the lessons of the past months," Tikriti said on arrival at Cairo airport. He will present his credentials to the league's Assistant Secretary-General Assad Al Assad Tuesday. The first Arab League meeting attended by Iraq since the Gulf war was on March 31. All 21 member countries were represented by their permanent delegates.

Lebanese teachers begin strike

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's 70,000 school teachers joined staff of the state university in an indefinite strike Monday, demanding better pay and benefits to combat soaring inflation. The strike call was observed by public and private school teachers across Lebanon, leaving about 800,000 students without school. The 1,500 teachers at the public Lebanese University have been on strike since Friday. Most of Lebanon's 81 banks were also closed Friday as workers seeking higher wages and allowances went on strike, but many of them reopened Monday. Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini warned the teachers Sunday against striking, saying if they went ahead parliament would refuse to ratify and decree passed to it.

Genscher in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher arrived in Tehran Monday, the latest in a series of European officials seeking improved relations with Iran. The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Genscher praised "the very responsible role that Iran has played during the important months at the end of 1990 and the beginning of 1991." Iran remained neutral in the Gulf war involving neighbouring Iraq and honoured the U.N. embargo imposed on Iraq after its August invasion of Kuwait.

Troops kill 66 Kashmiris near Pakistan border

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian troops ambushed and killed 66 Muslim militants near the frontier with Pakistan in Kashmir, in the biggest border clash in the 15-month separatist uprising, the government said Monday. Government spokesman Ramamohan Rao said the clash occurred Sunday in the Kupwara district of Jammu-Kashmir state, where Islamic militants are fighting for independence from India. Kupwara is 690 kilometres northwest of New Delhi. Rao said three militants were captured after a battle that lasted three hours.

Starvation threatens 4 million Bangladeshis

DHAKA (R) — Four million survivors of last week's cyclone disaster in Bangladesh face disease, starvation and many could die of disease, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said Monday. "An estimated four million people are now at serious risk from lack of fresh drinking water and food," the league said in a statement. "Many more deaths could follow from lack of water, food and disease." The official Cyclone Preparedness Centre said the death toll at 6 p.m. Monday was 125,672, up only slightly from the previous day. Red Crescent officials said the toll could climb to 200,000 when rescue relief teams reach isolated areas.

Shevardnadze calls for sanctions to force Middle East peace talks

Baker, Bessmertnykh visit region this week

Combined Agency Dispatches SOVIET and American foreign ministers plan to travel to the Middle East this week for talks on the region's peace process, it was announced in both Moscow and Washington Monday. The two, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, will also hold talks while in the region, Baker said.

Baker said he plans to return to the Middle East later this week to renew efforts to set up a regional peace conference.

"As long as there is any reasonable prospect of any chance of success, we should continue to work at this," Baker said. The visit will be his fourth since a ceasefire was agreed to in the Gulf war.

Baker, who returned from his most recent trip just 10 days ago, said the countries on his itinerary will be essentially the same as last time.

In Moscow, a foreign ministry spokesman said Bessmertnykh travels to Israel and Arab countries this week to promote a Middle East peace settlement, and hopes to meet with PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Bessmertnykh is to leave Moscow for Damascus, Syria, on Wednesday, said foreign ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin. In the following four days he will meet government leaders in Jordan, Israel, Egypt and possibly Lebanon, Churkin said.

Baker disclosed his travel plans while welcoming former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on a return visit to the

State Department. During his trip, Baker said, he plans to visit Shevardnadze's successor, Alexander Bessmertnykh, to try to coordinate plans for a Middle East peace conference, which would be held under joint Soviet-American sponsorship.

Baker said the plan continues to call for direct talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours as well as face-to-face talks between Israel and Palestinian representatives.

Baker said the decision to go ahead with the trip was made following a telephone discussion with President George Bush.

He and the president agreed, Baker said, that "we should continue to try."

In Moscow, Churkin said Bessmertnykh will be carrying no new Soviet peace plan.

"We are no longer speaking in terms of sweeping peace plans or schemes with which one could surprise the world," he told reporters. "We have some ideas."

"We think that they are good ideas and we want to see if those ideas can push things forward and make all the parties directly involved in that problem find a common ground which would make it possible to set that process of settlement in motion," Churkin said.

Bessmertnykh is to spend Thursday in Amman, where he will meet with His Majesty King Hussein.

He is scheduled to fly to Tel Aviv on Friday, but Churkin said he doubted there would be any announcement there about a restoration of diplomatic relations.

The Soviet Union severed ties with the Jewish state after the 1967 Middle East war, and Israel has demanded they be restored before Moscow could actively participate in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"We consider the possibility of restoring diplomatic relations with Israel within the context of a Middle East settlement," Churkin said.

"Therefore, I would not say that diplomatic relations with Israel will necessarily be restored during the Soviet foreign minister's visit to Israel."

"Baker said we are going to make another trip to the Middle East. I have discussed this at quite some length with the president...most recently yesterday by telephone."

"We both believe that as long as there's any hope for progress towards peace in the Middle East...we should continue to try and we intend to do that."

"I will probably be leaving some time in the latter part of this week."

"We will visit the same countries...that we've visited before and it will be my hope and belief that I'll have an opportunity to meet with Minister Bessmertnykh during the course of this trip so that we can continue to try to coordinate our efforts to promote a peace conference jointly sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union," he said.

The Soviet Union has agreed to co-sponsor with the United States a regional Arab-Israeli peace conference. Churkin said Bessmertnykh did not plan to meet



James Baker

Secretary Baker following his trip, but would keep his American counterpart informed of his talks with regional leaders.

Churkin said Bessmertnykh will "of course" raise its objections to the resettling of Soviet Jews on occupied Arab territories during his half-day of meetings in Israel.

Bessmertnykh is scheduled to fly Friday afternoon to Cairo, where he will stay until May 12, Churkin said. Efforts are under way to see whether Bessmertnykh could add a trip to Beirut to his agenda, along with a meeting with Arafat, he said.

Baker said he was still trying to arrange a conference that would see Israel negotiate directly with each of its neighbouring Arab states as well as with Palestinians.

"It would be a very broad conference of a nature and type that has never before taken place," he said.

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PLO would join Arab, Jordanian team but on equal footing — Milhem

AMMAN (R) — The PLO wants an independent delegation to any Middle East peace talks but will not oppose being part of a Jordanian or Arab team in which it can be equally represented, a PLO official said Monday.

"The principle is for an independent Palestinian delegation to attend any peace talks," Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Mohammad Milhem told Reuters.

"But if the roadblock to achieving Palestinian rights and peace in the area can be removed by going in an Arab delegation or with the Jordanians, we are ready for that provided our participation is on equal footing," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, trying to bring Israel and its Arab foes together at a peace conference, has not explicitly said

how Palestinians would be represented at any such talks.

But he is believed to favour the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to bypass Israel's refusal to talk to the PLO, which it regards as a terrorist organisation.

The Palestine Central Council, a link between the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, called at a meeting in Tunis last week for an independent Palestinian team at any negotiations.

Amman has told the PLO it will agree to a joint delegation only if the organisation publicly asked it to do so.

His Majesty King Hussein reaffirmed Amman's stand on Palestinian representation at any peace conference in talks on Sunday with a three-man PLO team on Baker's efforts.

The delegation, headed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas, briefed the King on their talks in Moscow last week with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, who will visit Jordan on Thursday.

Moscow has agreed to Baker's request to co-sponsor the peace conference with Washington.

"The Palestinian side should participate in any conference as the sole legitimate party to discuss the Palestinian dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the King as saying.

However, the two sides have not touched in their talks on delicate issues such as the form of Palestinian representation in any peace talks and the future of the occupied Palestinian territory, officials said.

Torture rampant in Kuwait, British newspaper reports

LONDON (AP) — A respected British newspaper reported Monday that Palestinians in Kuwait are still being harassed and tortured, even though such abuses have been widely reported and criticised.

The Independent said that, according to diplomats and international humanitarian workers, the mistreatment of Palestinians and other non-Kuwaitis by military and paramilitary groups was continuing to rise.

"The trend of abuses was going down a couple of weeks ago but now it is escalating again," one unnamed western diplomat told the newspaper. "A lot more violations have been reported... several detention centres which were closed are being opened again."

Palestinians say that — unlike the early days after the liberation, when they were picked up randomly on the streets — armed Kuwaitis are now forcing their way into Palestinian homes, often with the names of who they want, the newspaper reported.

"Sometimes you are picked up by one group, beaten, released, and then another group will come to your house and take you again," one young Palestinian told the Independent.

Amnesty International visited Kuwait last month to research alleged human rights abuses. Afterwards, the organisation appealed to the emir of Kuwait to intervene in what it called a wave of torture, killings and arbitrary arrests in the country following the withdrawal of Iraqi forces.

Amnesty International said scores of people had been killed and hundreds more arbitrarily arrested since the withdrawal, most of them Palestinians. It added that despite some positive steps by the government, overall safeguards against human rights violations appear to have been

accorded "an extremely low priority" by the country's rulers.

Ibrahim Majed Al Shalhin, Kuwait's minister of municipal affairs, said reports of human rights abuses were being planned by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, in an attempt to blacken Kuwait's name, The Independent reported.

"I think the PLO is trying to give the world a bad impression (of Kuwait)," he said. "They are the arms of Saddam Hussein."

Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, told British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd on Friday that the authorities "would not tolerate abuses of human rights of any of the residents."

As the emir and Hurd were meeting Friday, ten patients of different nationalities — some battered so badly that they could not speak — were resting in ward 18 of Kuwait's Farwaniya Hospital, The Independent said.

Last U.S. troops leave south today

Refugee havens flagrant interference in Iraq's affairs — National Assembly

BAGHDAD (R) — The National Assembly said on Monday that creation of refugee havens in northern Iraq by Western troops constituted flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs in violation of the United Nations charter.

In a statement carried by the official Iraqi news agency, the parliament said the safety zone for Kurdish refugees "violates the U.N. aims and is a flagrant intervention in Iraq's internal affairs."

"The U.N. charter... prohibits intervention in the internal affairs of various countries as a violation of national sovereignty."

It said "the so-called Kurdish

refugee problem was fabricated by America and its allied forces with the aim of blackmailing Iraq and imposing on its suspect policies."

The statement appealed to Arab and world parliaments and "all peace-loving countries to condemn this American behaviour."

In the north of Iraq, U.S. army troops closed around the city of Dohuk in their deepest push south from the Turkish border, while Iraqi soldiers headed in the opposite direction in trucks piled high with goods.

The U.S. battalion stayed on the city's outskirts, but an occupation of Dohuk was believed imminent — a move that would mark a significant expansion of the allied occupation of northern Iraq in an effort to allow 450,000 to 800,000 Kurdish refugees to return home.

Thousands of refugees have died in rugged mountain areas along the Turkish and Iranian borders after fleeing Iraqi troops that crushed their rebellion following the Gulf war. More than 30,000 refugees have returned.

Dohuk, about 48 kilometres south of Turkey, is home to many refugees and could become the largest northern Iraqi city occupied by allied troops.

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Iraqi-Kurdish talks resume this week

BAGHDAD (R) — A fresh round of autonomy talks between Iraq and Kurdish rebel leaders will begin in Baghdad this week, Iraqi government officials said on Monday.

President Saddam Hussein, whose troops crushed a Kurdish revolt in March, was likely to meet the Kurdish delegation but not until after the end of the talks, they added.

"It will be finished first and he (Saddam) will authenticate the document. The president always meets the delegation at the end of the talks," one official said.

But a senior official, quoted by well-informed sources, said the government did not intend to concede control of oil produced around the northern city of Kirkuk and opposed international guarantees for any agreement.

The first word on a fresh round of talks between Baghdad and Kurdish leaders came on Sunday

from a spokesman for the Iraqi Kurdistan Front, an umbrella group of the main parties seeking self rule for Iraq's Kurdistan region.

The government officials said Kurdish leaders were beginning to assemble in Baghdad for the talks, but they did not know on what day of the week the talks would begin.

Massoud Barzani, leader of the powerful Kurdish Democratic Party, will lead the Kurdish side to the negotiations.

The government side to the first round of talks, held in Baghdad last month, was led by Izzat Ibrahim, Saddam's second-in-command.

The Iraqi government, the senior official said, was totally opposed to a Kurdish proposal that any agreement concluded between the two sides should have international guarantees.

Any agreement would be an

internal matter, he added.

The official said Baghdad, which stamped out twin revolts by Muslim Shiites in central and southern Iraq, had no intention of handing an autonomous Kurdistan control of oil produced around the Kirkuk.

"The sale of Iraqi oil is a matter for the central government," he added.

The Iraqi Kurdistan Front spokesman, in an announcement made to Reuters in Cyprus on Sunday, said the delegation was carrying to Baghdad a set of proposals for what he called a political settlement of the Kurdish issue "within the framework of a united, democratic Iraq."

The spokesman said the proposals touched on the future of democracy in Iraq, preparations for free elections and the geographical boundaries of the autonomous Kurdish region, which should include Kirkuk.

Bush back to work

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush, in good spirits and obviously itching to get back to work, returned to the White House on Monday morning after being in hospital at the weekend with an irregular heartbeat.

"It's great to be back," Bush, who returned wearing a heart monitoring device, told reporters and White House staff members gathered outside the oval office to welcome him home. "Back to work, back to work."

He spoke in the rose garden shortly before 9:30 a.m. (1330 GMT) less than an hour after the White House announced that doctors had decided against electric-shock treatment to stabilise his heart rhythm and would instead rely on medication to treat his condition.

Their decision to forgo a procedure known as cardioversion "meant the 66-year-old president did not have to be sedated — a move that would have required a temporary transfer of power to Vice-President Dan Quayle."

The possibility that Quayle would become acting president, however briefly, caused jitters in world financial markets and revived a long-simmering U.S. debate about his qualifications to be a heartbeat away from America's highest office.

At a medical briefing at Bethesda naval hospital, Bush's doctors said they believed medication alone would deal with

the atrial fibrillation he developed on Saturday while jogging.

"Needless to say, the president wanted out (of the hospital). He's not a guy who likes to lie around a room. But this, I can assure you, had no bearing on our decision to release him."

White House physician Burton Lee said. "This man really has no physical problems of any kind that we can detect other than the arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat)," Lee said.

Asked if cardioversion was no longer expected, Dr. Bruce Lloyd, the hospital's chief of cardiology, said: "It is our hope that with continued fine-tuning of the medication... that question will be moot."

Bush, a tall, athletic man who loves strenuous exercise and is intensely competitive, must "curtail slightly" his physical activities until his medication is adjusted but should be able to resume a normal schedule within a week, his doctors said.

They said his heart rhythm had returned to normal at about 10.45 p.m. local time Sunday night (0245 GMT Monday) — just over a day after the Bush health scare began — but that it again became erratic while he was sleeping several hours later.

During the briefing, Dr. Lee was handed a note saying that Bush's heart rhythm had returned to normal again a few minutes

after he entered the oval office.

However, independent medical experts said the recurrence of the irregular heartbeat overnight was a sign that Bush's condition would have to be monitored indefinitely.

Bush planned to conduct a full schedule on Monday, including a 1.30 p.m. (1730 GMT) meeting with former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. He was also set to attend a charity reception in a Washington suburb on Monday evening.

Asked by a reporter when he would begin jogging again, the president said his doctors told him "today if I want to, but I'm not sure I feel up to it yet."

Bush also brushed aside concerns about the competence of Quayle, 44, who continues to battle a widespread impression that he lacks the stature to become president.

"Hey, he has my full support, always has, and he's doing a first-class job," Bush said of Quayle.

The former senator from Indiana was Bush's surprise choice for the Republican vice-presidential nomination in 1988. Bush has vowed that Quayle will again be on the Republican ticket if, as expected, he seeks a second term as president in 1992.

Bush was admitted to hospital on Saturday after suffering short-

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Moscow: Ties not a precondition of Israel trip

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union said Monday it did not see restoration of diplomatic ties as essential to the success of Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh's ground-breaking visit to Israel this week.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Vitaly Churkin said he saw the question of restoring ties, broken over the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, as part of the general peace process in the region.

"I think, therefore, it would be

wrong to believe that reestablishment of diplomatic relations should necessarily follow from the visit to Israel," he said.

Israeli officials say the visit signifies a step towards the resumption of relations, but refuse to say whether any agreement is expected during the trip.

Bessmertnykh will visit Israel on May 10 as part of a Middle East tour that will also include Syria, Jordan and Egypt. Churkin said the foreign minister might

also travel to Lebanon.

The Soviet Union, whose southern frontiers run close to the Middle East region, is hoping to help organise an international peace conference, a proposal it has backed for decades but which has moved up the world political agenda since the Gulf war.

The rift between the Soviet Union and Israel has greatly hampered Soviet efforts to influence developments in the region over two decades.

Levy says hardliner Sharon 'harms Israel'

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy has accused Housing Minister Ariel Sharon of making comments harmful to Israel during a controversial visit to Washington.

"What good does this do? Why talk this way? If you think this way, time will tell all," Levy said Sunday.

Sharon, a vocal advocate of Israeli rightwingers who wish to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip, is masterminding a building boom in the occupied territories.

The United States, trying to arrange a post-Gulf war Middle East peace conference, says the settlements obstruct peace.

In principle, it backs the idea that Israel should be prepared to exchange occupied territory for guaranteed peace.

In Washington last week, Sharon said the 1.75 million Palestinians who live in the occupied territories did not deserve an independent state. He said they belonged in Jordan, where the majority of the population is Palestinian.

"Such a stance does damage

and causes problems ...," Levy told his Likud Party's foreign affairs and defence committee.

Levy, who has met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on his three trips to Jerusalem, said the time was ripe to make peace and warned his party that unless Israel and the United States reached agreement, the Jewish state could find itself isolated.

He criticised ultra-nationalist parties in the Likud-led coalition which, like Sharon, have sworn to block regional peace talks if they would jeopardise Israel control of the territories, or involve Palestinians from East Jerusalem.

"The regional conference is under written guarantees the United States is prepared to give the Israeli government. This type of meeting will not have the authority to determine, vote, impose or take decisions," Levy told his colleagues.

Sharon's visit to Washington caused a storm when his planned meeting with Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp was downgraded to private

talks and transferred to the Israeli embassy after Baker objected to a formal meeting.

Sharon, a hilly 63-year-old former general and defence minister, returned to Israel late Sunday to a hero's welcome from hundreds of chanting supporters at the airport.

He swore Israel would keep on settling Jews in the occupied territories even if this jeopardised millions of dollars in U.S. aid for Soviet immigrants.

He confirmed that more housing would be built near the militant Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, near the Palestinian city of Hebron in the West Bank.

Already, 100,000 Jews inhabit fortified neighbourhoods in the territories.

Israel's Peace Now Movement said Sunday that bulldozers had laid the foundations for 2,000 more housing units near the Karnei Shomron settlement in the West Bank.

"When it comes to our lives,

we will do it. We will not endanger our lives," Sharon said.

Israel has sought millions of dollars in U.S. housing loan guarantees for a flood of Soviet Jewish immigrants. In New York, Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval confirmed his country would request 10 million dollars in loan guarantees in September.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel William Brown Friday criticised Israel's settlement policy, saying the Jewish state should not take for granted millions of dollars of aid to absorb the wave of immigrants.

In the Gaza Strip Sunday, residents said a 16-year-old Palestinian died from bullet wounds sustained during clashes between Palestinian activists and Israeli soldiers last month.

Since an uprising against Israeli rule erupted in the occupied territories 40 months ago, Israelis have killed 790 Palestinians.

Another 334 Arabs have been killed by fellow Palestinians on suspicion of aiding Israeli security forces. Sixty-five Israeli Jews and five tourists have also died.

Renowned violinist makes plea for Palestinians

By Alistair Lyon
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — World renowned violinist Sir Yehudi Menuhin made a plea before Israel's parliament Sunday for equality for the Palestinians.

Menuhin, 75, is in Israel to receive the 1991 Wolf Foundation prize for arts, awarded him as "one of the greatest violinists of the 20th century," who brought nations together through musical education, enlightening people and elevating cultural levels throughout the world.

In his acceptance speech to the parliament, Menuhin urged Israel to adopt "absolute reciprocity, absolute equality" towards the Palestinians as the "sine qua non of peace."

"Otherwise you will continue to let yourselves be governed by this fear and violence, remaining a bitter armed camp as long as you survive," Menuhin told the 120-member parliament.

American-born and a British citizen, Menuhin mentioned that his Jewish ancestry lent special significance to the opportunity of addressing the Israeli parliament as a Wolf Prize recipient.

However, Menuhin refrained from calling the Palestinians by name. Israel should face "the ineluctable fact that, living amongst them, are people equally dedicated to the land, equally ready to die for their loyalties."

"It is unworthy of my great people, the Jews, who have striven to abide by a code of moral rectitude for some five thousand years, who can create and achieve a land and a society for themselves such as we see around, but can yet deny the sharing of its great qualities and benefits to those others dwelling amongst them," Menuhin added.

Menuhin added that a two-state solution could lead to peace. "And this offer can only come from the stronger," he added.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's ruling Likud bloc opposes giving up land for peace, a U.S.-backed solution promoted by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his past three trips to the Middle East.

The Palestinians have been waging a 40-month uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel captured the lands in the 1967 Middle East war.

At least 821 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians in the uprising.

The Wolf Prizes are given annually and carry \$100,000 awards. The recipients of the awards for chemistry, medicine, physics, agriculture and mathematics were also honored at the Israeli parliament.

U.S. set to move Kurds from border camps to Iraq

By Alistair Lyon
Reuter

SILQI, Turkey — The U.S. military, racing against the onset of summer heat, is preparing to move thousands of Kurds from mountain camps on the Turkish border into allied "safe havens" in northern Iraq, a U.S. officer said on Monday.

"The reason for speed is that by June 1 there will be no water in the mountains," Lieutenant Colonel Paul Wisniewski told Reuters.

"The ground water disappears. The springs dry up. The water we have been trucking or flying up to the camps was only ever a supplement to the sources."

In the western sector of the rugged 330-kilometre frontier, buses have begun ferrying refugees from Isikveren and Yekmal camps, holding an estimated 120,000 people, back to Iraq via Turkish roads.

Wisniewski said the flow of refugees would be stepped up in coming days and more transport laid on for those descending from the mountains on the Iraqi side of the ridge.

The new effort, due to start on Wednesday, aims to bring 250,000 to 270,000 refugees at the camps of Cukurca and Uzunlu back to Iraq.

"There is no direct route down

from Cukurca," Wisniewski said. "Those people hiked up the mountains to get there."

He said the idea was first to clear Uzunlu, 20 kilometres west of Cukurca, and then use it as a staging post for refugees making their way along a poor dirt road from Cukurca.

Most of the Kurds would have to walk the 12 kilometres from Uzunlu to Kani Masi, a destroyed mountain village connected to the valley by asphalt roads.

U.S. forces will install a relay station at Kani Masi, where a Kurdish guerrilla command is based, to supply refugees on the move with water, food and medical care, as well as petrol for those who had abandoned vehicles there.

Wisniewski was trying to find 100 Iraqi trucks to help take large numbers of refugees from Kani Masi to Sarsank, 28 kilometres away, where U.S. forces are building a big supply depot.

They have started to repair Sarsank airfield, which was under construction when allied bombers cratered it during the Gulf war.

When repairs are complete, C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft will fly in relief supplies from the U.S.-Turkish base of Incirlik near the southern city of Adana.

Wisniewski said two or three other relay stations would be

placed along the way and about 500 simple tents would be put up at Sarsank.

Many Kurds at Cukurca and Uzunlu came from the provincial capital of Dahuk, about 40 kilometres southwest of Sarsank, and nearby towns still outside the allied "security zone."

Wisniewski said refugees unable to return immediately to Dahuk might stay with relatives in the Sarsank area, but there were no plans to set up a major tent city such as the 10,000-capacity camp near Zakho to the west.

He said the military would soon arrange transport and at least one way-station to bring down smaller numbers of refugees from camps further east within a week.

"Right now, our biggest headache is gas (petrol). Second biggest is water," he said. "The United Nations is following us wherever we go and they have started registering refugees."

Allied forces were distributing safe passage cards to fearful Kurds to encourage them to return to havens which the United Nations may eventually take over from the military.

Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, most of them Kurds, fled to Turkey and Iran last month after the Iraqi forces crushed Kurdish and Shi'ite revolts which flared after Iraq's Gulf war defeat.

Saddam's portraits almost extinct in southern city

NASSIRIYA, Iraq (R) — Rebels in this devastated city vented their anger on portraits of President Saddam Hussein during a Shi'ite Muslim uprising that erupted in central and southern Iraq after the Gulf war.

Reporters who visited Nassiriya Sunday found dozens of the concrete billboards that carry President Saddam's portraits throughout Iraq scorched or empty where pictures had been burnt or obliterated with paint.

More than one month after Iraqi forces put down the Shi'ite rebellion, only the entrance to the heavily guarded headquarters of the provisional governor was adorned with portraits of the Iraqi leader.

"Both looked clean and new. The people did not deface portraits... because the people love Saddam Hussein to the point of adoration," Governor Aziz Saleh Al Noaman said.

He blamed the unrest that followed Iraq's Gulf war defeat on saboteurs who he said had infiltrated the country from neighbouring Iran.

Nassiriya, 350 kilometres south of Baghdad on the Euphrates River, was heavily bombed by U.S. and allied planes in the war which drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Allied soldiers occupied the river bank opposite the city in their lightning advance into Iraq that ended the six-week war at the end of February.

Bridges across the river were destroyed in air raids, which residents said killed 750 civilians, but one remained standing.

Engineers are now erecting a pontoon bridge for motor traffic but on Sunday vehicles poured in single file over the one remaining bridge.

All that remains of the middle section of the bridge is the pavement and a narrow strip of road.

Governor Noaman said the rebels had destroyed what was left untouched by the air raids when they burnt and looted shops.

Other evidence suggested the rebels themselves had been in control of the hospital, where the name of President Saddam has been removed from the building's nameplate.

The Iraqi army smashed the Shi'ite revolt in the south before heading north to stamp out a short-lived Kurdish rebellion in early April.

President Saddam, who is now pledging to take Iraq towards democracy, last week began touring provincial cities but has restricted his visits so far to areas largely untouched by civil unrest.

In a visit to the northern city of Mosul Saturday, he implied that Iraqis who had joined the rebels were traitors.

"There are Iraqis who are registered as Iraqi but are not," President Saddam said in a speech to local officials broadcast on television.

Nassiriya residents interviewed by journalists accompanied by information ministry guides echoed the official line that the Shi'ite revolt was Iranian-inspired.

Noaman said few residents had been killed in the revolt in Nassiriya and that those who had fled had since returned.

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In a visit to the northern city of Mosul Saturday, he implied that Iraqis who had joined the rebels were traitors.

"There are Iraqis who are registered as Iraqi but are not," President Saddam said in a speech to local officials broadcast on television.

Nassiriya residents interviewed by journalists accompanied by information ministry guides echoed the official line that the Shi'ite revolt was Iranian-inspired.

Noaman said few residents had been killed in the revolt in Nassiriya and that those who had fled had since returned.

But the symptoms were sometimes different. Unhappy people, especially less educated ones, were often more likely to experience their problem as a physical ache or pain which could not be treated by medicine, she said.

Suicide was rare because it was against Islam. But Saudi women who lacked control over their lives were more prone to depression than Western women, Jabbar said.

"The woman's role in this country is very much related to depression — the way she is looked at, the segregation, the legal system, lack of freedom of movement, choice," she said.

"If she has support from her family they can help but if they are against her there are problems which we as psychologists can't do much about."

She said the psychological problems which she spoke to Saudi men and women about

opposed by many religious fundamentalists.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Czechoslovakia has not made deal to sell tanks to Syria, Iran

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovakia may sell tanks to Syria or Iran in order to earn money for converting its huge arms industry to peaceful production, officials said on Monday. The leftist daily Rude Pravo said Prague was considering exporting about 100 new Soviet-designed T-72 tanks to Syria and some old T-55 tanks to Iran. "We are still considering the economic and political aspects of a deal (with Syria)," Foreign Trade Ministry spokesman Frantisek Havrila said. "It's still possible we won't sell tanks to Syria." President Vaclav Havel's spokesman Michael Zantovsky said no specific deal had been made with Iran. "We have never said we would stop exporting our heavy arms technology altogether, although our policy is not to produce arms, conversion of the arms industry cannot be done from one day to another because Czechoslovakia does not have enough money," Zantovsky said. "If Czechoslovakia sells some arms, it will only be to get money for the conversion. But it does not mean we would sell anywhere and to anyone." The United States urged Czechoslovakia last Friday not to export tanks to Syria and Iran. Czechoslovakia was a major supplier of heavy arms to the Middle East until the overthrow of Communist rule in 1989. Some 80,000 people are employed in arms production in the eastern region of Slovakia. The regional government has resisted demands to close the factories quickly because of the severe impact this would have on a poor area where unemployment is already rising sharply.

Five shops set on fire in Alexandria; four die in bus accident

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (AP) — Five shops were set on fire before dawn Monday in this Mediterranean port and police suspect Muslim extremists were behind the similar, simultaneous attacks. A police officer, who refused to be identified, said four of the shops are owned by members of Egypt's Coptic Christian minority. Two of them sell house appliances and the others are a grocery and a liquor store. The fifth, owned by a Muslim, is a beauty salon. The officer said there were no casualties. Damage to the shops, located in different parts of the city, was minor, he added. He said authorities suspect Muslim extremists, who in recent years set fire to numerous Coptic-owned stores all over the country. Muslim extremists believe women should be veiled and consider beauty parlors against Islam. "The fires started around 3 a.m. Monday," the officer said. "The same method was used. The culprits poured kerosene on the doors of the shops and set them ablaze. Firemen rushed to the scene and quickly extinguished the fires. There was no serious damage to any of the shops." Accidents like these are usually followed by roundups of scores of Muslim extremists known to police. In an unrelated mishap, four people died and 19 were injured when their overcrowded bus hit a truck parked on one side of the Alexandria-Cairo highway. The same police officer said the accident occurred Monday morning. The public bus, shuttling between Alexandria and the town of Kafr el Dawar, 20 kilometres to the south, carried between 60-70 passengers. Many stood in the aisle, he said. One of the bus' front tyres burst, causing the vehicle to swerve and ram into the parked truck, which was loaded with cotton. Two men and two women passengers died instantly.

Saudis says turtle breeding ground cleared of oil

NICOSIA (R) — Experts have cleaned up an oil-polluted island used as a breeding ground by endangered turtle species, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said on Monday. SPA quoted a report by the Dhahran-based Meteorological and Environmental Protection Agency saying nearly 900,000 barrels of oil split in the Gulf war had been sucked up from Saudi shores. Oil lapped the shores of Karan Island, 100 kilometres northeast of the Saudi port of Jubail, threatening bawkills and green sea turtles during their April-July nesting season. Gulf environmental officials say up to four million barrels of crude oil spilled into the shallow waterway during the war. The U.S.-led allies accused Iraq of deliberately releasing most of the oil. Iraq blamed allied bombing raids on its tankers and oil terminals. The London-based International Maritime Organisation said a team of British experts began the clean-up operation last month. SPA, received in Cyprus, said several patches of oil were sighted on Sunday off the Saudi coast. It said nearly 2,000 barrels of spilled oil have been processed at its small Safaniya refinery, near the border with Kuwait.

U.S. dropped new bomb in effort to kill Iraqi leaders

John M. Broder
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — In the closing days of the Gulf war, the U.S. Air Force used powerful new penetration bombs to destroy hardened Iraqi command bunkers in an attempt to kill the nation's senior leaders, U.S. defence officials said Friday.

The bombs were developed and tested at Air Force laboratories in a crash programme, arriving in Saudi Arabia only days before the ceasefire was declared Feb. 28.

Two of the 4,700-pound bombs, fashioned from lengths of heavy, 8-inch artillery gun tubes, were dropped by F-111 bombers on a command bunker complex north of Baghdad in the final week of the war. Officials said that the bombs penetrated the buried, heavily reinforced bunkers and killed a number of senior Iraqi military officers.

A senior Pentagon official denied that Iraqi leader Saddam

Hussein was the target of the attacks, but he acknowledged that U.S. air strikes "went after command and control" — including the nation's top leadership — from the first moments of the war.

The policy sparked controversy during the war after U.S. warplanes destroyed a reputed command bunker in a residential neighbourhood in Baghdad on Feb. 13, killing more than 200 people. Iraqi officials said that structure was a civilian bomb shelter, but U.S. authorities insisted that it was a command facility for the Iraqi military and a shelter for the leadership elite.

Existence of the new penetration bomb, designated the GBU-28, was disclosed by the industry magazine Aviation Week & Space Technology. The magazine's account of the development and use of the weapon to be published in tomorrow's editions, was independently verified by sources at the Pentagon.

Kurds refuse to eat Norwegian food

OSLO (R) — Iraqi Kurdish refugees in Iran are refusing to eat several hundred tonnes of food aid sent by Norway as they wrongly fear it contains pig fat, the firm which made the food said on Monday. "It's 100 per cent vegetable fat," said Arne Andreassen, head of compact A/S, which has made 2,035 tonnes of food sent by Norway's relief agencies to the Kurds. "We've been sending this food around the world for 30 years to all races and religions."

Saudi woman psychologist breaks with tradition

By Mariam Isa
Reuter

RIYADH — Saudi psychologist Dr. Jawahir Al Abdul Jabbar has crossed many of the traditional barriers for women in this conservative Muslim society.

Sitting alone and unveiled in her office at the King Faisal Specialist hospital in Riyadh, she counsels Saudi couples on all aspects of their marital problems — including sex.

Jabbar says her male patients, who include bearded religious men, don't raise their eyebrows or demand to see a male doctor.

But female patients who see her male colleagues sometimes ask to switch to a woman doctor.

"Nobody objects or says no they want a male doctor or they cannot talk about private

matters ... even the religious men," she said in an interview. Jabbar, a divorcee in her 30s with two daughters, went to government schools then attended college in the United States.

She was offered a fellowship abroad after receiving her doctorate in clinical psychology from London University five years ago, but decided to return to Riyadh to work instead.

"It was very important to me that my daughters should have the opportunity to learn their language, their religion and their social values in this country," she said.

"I'm a Saudi. I belong to this country — there are things I don't like and will do my best to help change but whatever the circumstances, I consider myself a citizen."

Women in Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, may not drive and seldom venture outdoors without a veil, an abaya (concealing black cloak), or a male relative. Sexes are strictly segregated.

Jabbar said the restrictions were more the outcome of strong social tradition than of Islam itself, which set rules to protect women and orphans when it was founded 14 centuries ago.

But she said there was no point in trying to force change. A protest in which about 50 Saudi women drove through Riyadh last October led to a new law being passed explicitly banning them from driving, she said. Before, it was an unwritten rule.

"With regard to driving as a social issue, I believe in it and I want it. With regard to the attempt by that group of women I did not support it at all, I was asked to participate

and I refused," she said. Jabbar said she believed the timing of the unprecedented demonstration was bad because it stirred anger from religious fundamentalists while Saudi Arabia was under threat from Iraq.

The method was also wrong because nothing could be achieved in Saudi Arabia by confrontation. "When I was younger I expected a lot of change but now I'm more pragmatic and do things which will not offend but will make the point."

"I shouldn't compare myself to a Western woman because that would be unfair. I compare myself to my mother and my grandmother and to a lot of women in the country," she said.

Saudi Arabia introduced compulsory schooling for girls in the early 1960s, a move

opposed by many religious fundamentalists.

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Home News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1991

Summer water programme announced

AMMAN (Petra) — Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Monday called on citizens to ration water consumption due to the growing needs for water and the inability of the present water sources to meet the increasing demands.

Addressing a press conference, WAJ Secretary General Mu'taz Bilbeisi said there was a continuous increase in the consumption of water owing to the average consumption of water, per annum, by every individual ranges between 150 and 350 cubic metres.

He pointed out that the authority was making every possible effort to find new water sources, adding that rational consumption was still necessary.

He presented WAJ's plan to pump water to various areas in

accordance with a schedule aimed at ensuring a fair distribution to each of the 460,000 subscribers to the water network.

The new water distribution programme specifies a special tariff for the use of water having it on an average of 20 to 40 cubic metres of water per individual.

However, if the consumption exceeds this limit, a progressively increased tariff will be enforced.

He requested citizens to arrange for having extra water tanks, sufficient to meet their needs during summer.

He said that there was a shortage of 35 million cubic metres of water caused by a population increase and the arrival of a large number of Jordanians working abroad.

The pumping rate in 1990 was 175 million cubic metres, compared to 172 million in 1989, he noted.

He pointed out that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation had drilled new water wells and increased the quantity of pumped water by about 1,000 cubic metres per hour.

On sources of water in Jordan, Mr. Bilbeisi said Jordan relied on ground and surface well. He said ground wells provided 94 per cent of the water available for consumption while surface water sources provide only six per cent.

Asked about the possibility of setting up earth dams to utilise rain water, Mr. Bilbeisi said the authority had allocated JD 1 million to this year's

budget to dig holes and set up small earth dams where water can be stored and utilised for livestock and fodder.

Replying to a question about complaints raised by citizens about water meters, Mr. Bilbeisi said the WAJ used meters conforming with international specifications and standards, adding that the authority was in the process of replacing 200,000 meters.

Asked about the accuracy of reports saying that tap water was not pure, he said that the authority was keen on keeping water clean and pure at all times, and called on citizens to make sure that water installations in their houses are fit and their water tanks are clean.

Following is the water distribution schedule as announced by WAJ:

Area	Pumping time	Area	Pumping time
Western Amman		Al Hasmieh	Sunday
Shmeisani, 4th circle, 5th circle	From 7.00 a.m. Saturday until 7.00 a.m. Monday and from 7.00 a.m. Wednesday until 7.00 p.m. Thursday.	Al Manshieh, Maghayer Al Mahanna, Al Buwaidah, Al Nuqairah, Al Zamilat	Monday
The Silver Jubilee Circle, Gardens, Tlas Al Ali, Um Uthaina, Al Rabieh, Khalda, Um Samman, Al Bustan, Abu Qoura farm area, Mecca Street, Prince Rashid housing estate, Al Jandawil area.	From 7.00 a.m. Monday till 7.00 a.m. Wednesday and from 7.00 p.m. Thursday till 7.00 p.m. Saturday.	Al Muwaqqar, Al Faisaliyah, Al Dhebbat and Um Butmah	Tuesday
Sweifeh, Abdoun and Public Security estate	Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday	Khshafat Al Dahaybeh (Al Bkour and Abdallah), Hay Al Salem	Thursday
Central Amman		May Al Faraj and Al Beida village	Friday
Nuzha, Qusour, Hussein camp	Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Wednesday	North Amman	Saturday and Tuesday
Jabal Hussein	Sunday, Thursday	Shafa Badran villages	Sunday and Wednesday
Eastern Amman		Abu Nuseir housing estate	Monday and Thursday
Khalsieh quarter, Alia quarter, Alia eastern quarter, Horys Race Club, old Royal stables, Al Nasr mount and camp, Haman quarter	Monday, Tuesday, Friday	Wadi Seer area	
Al Hizzan Road, Sahieh, Harsha	Tuesday, Friday	From 7.00 p.m. Saturday until 7.00 a.m. Wednesday and from 7.00 p.m. Thursday until 7.00 p.m. Saturday.	
South Amman		Al Sahi, Al Rawzaq and Al Bayader	From 7.00 Monday till 7.00 p.m. Tuesday and from 7.00 p.m. Tuesday until 7.00 p.m. Wednesday
Java, Khreibet Al Souq, Salem and Nafe' villages, Juwaidah, Yadiouda, Al Laban, Tneib, the pharmacists' housing estate, Al Faybah, Al Uluqunich, Shooting Club, Finance and Agriculture personnel housing estate, Customs housing estate, Um Al Hiran, Grain silos, Haj Hassan estate, Al Zubour	From 2.00 p.m. Saturday until Sunday morning and from Wednesday noon until Thursday morning	Badr villages	From 7.00 a.m. Friday until 7.00 p.m. Saturday
Um Qabala, central Marj Al Hamman, TV personnel housing estate, Badr housing estate, Umeish, radio transmission area, Natural Resources Authority housing estate, Naour, Sahab, Rujm Al Shami, Urban Development Department housing estate, Land and Survey Department housing estate.	Sunday, Monday and Thursday	Sweileh areas	Monday and Thursday
Alia Housing estate, the Ministry of Education housing estate, Nuwairan housing estate, Um Abbara, Al Uwileh, Al Tabaq, Al Hayyat, Al Bnayyat, Marj Al Hamman, Al Ruqaim, Khshafat Al Shawabkeh, Qweishneh, Abu Alanda, Public Security housing estate.	Tuesday and Wednesday till 2.00 p.m. and from Friday until 2.00 p.m. Saturday	King Hussein and King Abdullah streets, Safout and Ksmaleh	Tuesday and Friday
		Hammur housing estate, Ta'amreh quarter Um Sultan, Al Salt	Saturday and Wednesday
		Princess Haya estate, Smeirat and Awaysheh estates	Sunday and Thursday
		Swileh, eastern quarter	Tuesday and Friday
		Madaba district	
		Madaba town (eastern and northern quarters)	From 7.00 a.m. Friday until 7.00 a.m. Monday
		Al Azaidah housing estate and Madaba camp	From 7.00 a.m. Tuesday until 7.00 p.m. Thursday
		The housing estate and the western quarter	Sunday and Wednesday
		Amman National Park, Rawda and Jabel Bani Hamideh	Thursday and Friday



Her Majesty Queen Noor, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha, Thursday inaugurates a Jordanian antiquities and folk art exhibition in Liverpool

Queen inaugurates exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor accompanied by His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, Thursday inaugurated the "Jordan — Treasures from an Ancient Land" exhibition at the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside (NMGM) in Liverpool, Britain, and expressed the hope of increased Jordanian-British cultural exchange and cooperation.

This major exhibition, which will be on display for six months (and is expected to attract some 150,000 visitors), represents the best collection of Jordanian antiquities and folk art, assembled for international display and includes sculptures, pottery, tools, metals, glass, jewelry, mosaics and writings as well as costumes from the Widad Kawar collection.

Welcoming Her Majesty were the mayor of Liverpool, the lord lieutenant of Merseyside, the high sheriff of Merseyside, chairman of the board of trustees of NMGM, Sir Leslie Young, Mr. Robert Parry and other high officials.

To her inaugural remarks, Queen Noor expressed her pleasure at this Jordanian-British collaborative effort and underlined the importance of holding the exhibition in Liverpool following the tense international environment of the past nine months.

The Queen emphasised that such opportunities to learn through interaction "can only strengthen the conceptual bonds which bind us in a single universal quest for human development, national dignity and international harmony" and "increased awareness of historical realities, deeper mutual understanding, enhance mutual respect, and stimulate a desire among people of both countries to exchange visits and get to know one another better."

Referring to the artifacts on display, the Queen said that they expressed the universal theme that "beyond physical survival, we all seek personal dignity, community honour, cultural expression and national identity. These sentiments are shared by all human beings. But they are best

expressed by societies that are innovative, creative and productive because they enjoy justice, peace, security and stability."

Queen Noor thanked the trustees and directors of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside for hosting this exhibition, and expressed her appreciation to the officials and staff of the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities for their contribution to the success of the exhibition.

Attending the Liverpool exhibition — which has already travelled to Paris, Cologne, Schallburg, Munich, Tokyo and Singapore — were Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha, Ambassador and Mrs. Albert Butros, Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Nasri

Libyan delegation, deputies discuss regional issues

AMMAN (Petra). — A Libyan delegation, currently on a visit to Jordan, Monday met with members of the Lower House of Parliament and exchanged views on the latest developments in the region and issues pertaining to enhancing Arab solidarity.

At a meeting with members of the independent Islamic Bloc at the Lower House, the two sides stressed the need for holding Arab parliamentary meetings to discuss the dangers facing the entire Arab Nation and coordinate efforts and political stands in international meetings and fora.

In another meeting with members of the National Bloc at the House, the deputies lauded Jordan's democratic experience and stressed the importance of enhancing inter-Arab relations and coordinating Arab efforts to "fend off dangers and foil attempts designed to divide the whole Arab Nation and weaken it."

They pinpointed the imperialist plans and attempts to impose hegemony on the Arab Nation, and called on the Arabs to live up to their responsibility in countering the dangers facing them.

Head of the delegation, Mustafa Al Zaidi, praised Jordan's positions vis-a-vis Arab and Islamic issues, and said Jordan shouldered a great responsibility in countering the Israeli aggression and the inhuman Israeli practices against the Palestinian people.

Arab-American Doctors Organisation sends aid to Iraq

Abu Qoura receives delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordao National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) President Ahmad Abu Qoura, who is also chairman of the Permanent Committee of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent, Monday received a delegation representing the Arab-American Doctors Organisation which is currently visiting Jordan.

Dr. Abu Qoura reviewed with the delegation the humanitarian role carried out by JNRCS to secure assistance to the Iraqis and to alleviate their suffering.

"The Jordan Red Crescent Society has established, since the outbreak of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression on Iraq, a humanitarian bridge through the land road linking Jordan to Iraq, to help the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and provide it with humanitarian assistance, such as food supplies, baby milk, medicine and medical supplies," Dr. Abu Qoura said.

He said the society, in cooperation with the League of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies managed to carry out this humanitarian mission successfully.

Dr. Abu Qoura lauded the efforts of the Arab-American Doctors Organisation to send humanitarian aid to the Iraqis with the aim of alleviating their suffering.

The head of the visiting delegation, Dr. Irfan Al Hani, thanked the Jordanian society for the role it carried out since the start of the Gulf crisis.

He said the Arab-American Doctors Organisation would be providing aid to the Middle East region through the establishment of a project which aims to helping the children of Jordan, the occupied Arab territories and Iraq.

He said the delegation, which consists of 12 doctors, will head for Iraq Tuesday to deliver a shipment of relief supplies which the organisation's Emergency Committee decided to send in its April 10 meeting.

The shipment includes \$50,000 worth of baby milk as well as medicine worth \$50,000, according to Dr. Al Hani.

The organisation includes 1,200 working members and 3,000 supporting members.

Job-seekers warned against fake offers

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Labour teams Sunday discovered several offices announcing fake job opportunities in a bid to lure job-seekers to pay them money for getting jobs.

Commenting on these findings, Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughni said the ministry had taken all the legal steps against these offices and regained the amounts paid to these offices by job-seekers.

Article 13 of the Labour Law under no condition allows the opening of such offices, Mr. Dughni said. He added that the ministry would take the necessary measures against any such offices, including their referral to the public prosecutor on charge of fraud.

He stressed that the recruitment of job-seekers and receipt of applications for job opportunities are the responsibility of the ministry's Recruitment Department, and called on job-seekers not to deal with any such offices at all.

In the meantime, the ministry's recruitment committee Sunday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Dughni and approved the renewal of 220 work permits for non-Jordanian workers. A spokesman for the committee said that the permits were issued for people in jobs that no Jordanians could perform.

Governorates mark Traffic Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Zarga Governor Mohammad Hussein Shobaki Monday attended the celebration held here to mark the World Traffic Day and the Arab Traffic Week.

Addressing the celebration, President of the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents Jezi Al Majali stressed the importance of adhering to instructions and traffic signs in order to put an end to the alarming number of car accidents in Jordan.

He said that Jordan was one of the countries with the greatest number of car accidents and called for directing special attention to the roads and for punishing violators of the rules and regulations.

He also called for the formation of a standing committee to follow up on traffic issues, study the causes of road accidents and

recommended solutions.

Other speakers at the celebration stressed the need for cost-effective driving in order to save energy.

"At the end of the celebration Mr. Shobaki handed over prizes and awards to several drivers, who have been driving for a long time without violating traffic regulations or causing accidents."

He also presented prizes to a number of boy scouts, a government driver and a driver working for the Civil Defence Department.

Mr. Shobaki also awarded the Traffic Department Cup to Zarga Municipality.

The celebration was attended by a number of deputies, Upper House members, heads of departments from Zarga Governorate.

A number of boy scouts and girl guides Monday assisted in organising traffic in Zarga streets

and provided assistance to people and traffic police.

"On the other hand, cars carrying placards calling for careful and cost-effective driving toured the streets of the city."

On the occasion, the governor of Zarga opened a special centre for training children on traffic lights and signs, set up in the Prince Mohammad Garden of Zarga Municipality.

He also opened an exhibition on means of preventing road accidents, held at Prince Hassan School in the city.

A similar celebration was held in Irbid to mark the occasion. Speakers at the celebration stressed the need to abide by traffic regulations and instructions to avert tragic road accidents, and called for launching traffic education programmes in the governorate schools.

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التنس، للاشتراك والمزيد
من المعلومات الرجاء
الاتصال
بهااتف ٨١٥٠٧١
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Director General:
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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

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Realism, to begin with

AT a time when the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are holding "intensive contacts" with Iranian leaders to involve Iran in regional security arrangements and sending one signal to Tehran after the other that the six regard Iran as a friend and neighbour, they are still refusing to turn a new page with the rest of their Arab brothers. Witness the communiqué the GCC foreign ministers issued at the end of their one-day meeting in Kuwait on Sunday calling for the continuation of sanctions against Iraq. This came about in spite of Baghdad's repeated declaration of acceptance to abide by all the U.N. Security Council resolutions, most prominent amongst which is SCR 660 which calls for negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait to settle their border and other disputes.

There is nothing wrong in incorporating Iran into the Gulf regional security schemes. On the contrary it is necessary and logical. But what is inherently wrong in the GCC's latest approach is to exclude Iraq from such anticipated arrangements as if that country no longer exists on the map of the region. Iraq was, is and will always be an important Arab country and a regional power to reckon with. Granted it is a defeated state but that cannot change the overall picture that it is an important state both economically and politically, inhabited by Arab people whose continuous role in Arab affairs can never be excluded for all times. Rather than continue to ostracise Iraq and its people and make security plans for the future without taking the Iraqi factor into consideration, it would be much wiser and infinitely more farsighted to attempt now to reintegrate Iraq into the regional political and economic infrastructures as soon as possible. Needless to say, a permanent weak Iraq would and could invite regional disorder in the long run.

An unstable Iraq forced to submit to humiliating surrender conditions would logically lead to the rise of another regional power not only to fill the vacuum created but also to threaten to keep the whole area under its hegemony. No doubt the principal beneficiary from the continued isolation of Iraq would be Iran whose might and clout in the Gulf is bound to increase in proportion to the decrease in the influence and power of the Arab side of the broad Gulf equation.

It is high time therefore that the Arab world took a fresh look at the post Gulf war situation. It is also an opportune moment to heal wounds and start a new era in Arab history. The lessons of Kuwait's invasion and its occupation by Iraq cannot but influence all quarters in the Arab homeland for a long time to come. But these lessons need to be learned in a positive manner. In few years, if not months, Iraq's relations with its Arab neighbours will surely go back to normal. Is it not much better to reconstruct Gulf regional relations on that basis rather than the proposition that Iraq would forever remain at odds with these six Arab Gulf states? The important lessons of World War I must not be allowed to escape our attention. Surely it must have dawned on the Gulf states that defeated Germany rose from ashes again to threaten Europe, principally because it was humiliated and made to submit to short-sighted surrender terms. We think it is high time to begin the cultivation of affirmative and positive relations with Iraq and the rest of the Arab world anew and to make sure that the projected security arrangements in the Gulf region are made on realistic and healthy basis.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

It won't be long before the Arabs realise that their desire to reach a just and durable settlement is not reciprocated by the western countries, and that the special relationship between the hostile western camp and the Zionists does not permit the Arabs to enjoy the aspired peace nor does it allow for the implementation of the international legitimacy in the middle east question, said Al Rai Arabic daily Monday. The paper said despite the promises made by the United States, the Arabs should realise that the U.S. administration is drawing away step by step from a commitment to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. While the Arabs are showing their genuine desire for a comprehensive peace and continue to pursue their moves on the international level to achieve that goal and to have the international legitimacy implemented, the Zionists are not deterred by any power on earth in their continued rejection of the U.N. resolutions and in pursuing their terrorist and repressive policies against the Palestinians, the paper noted. It said that the Zionists are backed not only by the U.S. diplomatic clout, but also by the American taxpayers money with which they are building settlements on Arab land. We realise that only the United States can force Israel to give up Arab land in Lebanon, Syria and Palestine, lands it has been occupying for years, but Washington is regrettably doing nothing in this regard said the paper. It said that the United States can prove its credibility by forcing Israel to succumb to the international community's will and implement its resolutions.

Many believe that the Jordanians people's support for Iraq was motivated by mere sentiments which would sooner or later cool down but this cannot be further from the truth, says a columnist in Al Rai daily. Fahd Al Fakr notes that Jordan's economic and security interests are linked to those of Iraq, and this state of affairs was enhanced during the two Gulf wars when Jordan emerged as Iraq's strategic depth and its outlet to the outside world. The writer says that the Jordanian and Iraqi economies became inter-related and integrated in such a way that it would be disastrous for Jordan to try to extricate itself from such situation. The future offers the same concept to such relations, and the port of Aqaba is expected to be the main import-export outlet for Iraq which will not resume its activities through Turkey or the United Arab Emirates, the writer points out. For this reason, he says, concerned authorities in Jordan should give due attention to expanding the port, laying of the Aqaba-Amman-Baghdad rail and the Karkouk-Zarqa-Red Sea oil pipeline.

By Israel Shahak

FOR the Palestinians of the occupied territories employment in Israel is vital. For over the last 23 years the policies of the Israeli occupation regime have been aimed at destroying the economy of the territories and at arresting all economic development there.

Thus, for example, the development of Palestinian agriculture has been effectively prevented by the policies of land confiscation and water allocation. In the West Bank 55-60 per cent of land has been confiscated in the much more densely populated Gaza Strip 40 per cent. The confiscated land is then reallocated for the exclusive use of Israelis. Regulations concerning the use of water in agriculture are no less blatantly racist. The Palestinians are allowed to use only as much water as they used in September 1967, and no more. Due to this prohibition, the 70-80,000 Israeli settlers of the West Bank were already in 1988 allocated more water than the 800,000 Palestinians of the same area.

The situation in industry and services is no different. A Palestinian who wants to set up a business of whatever kind in the territories needs a permit from the Israeli authorities, whose openly avowed policy is to prevent any competition with Israeli goods or services. Thus, for example, Palestinians are prohibited from purchasing milk cows, and must buy milk and dairy products from the Israelis. Needless to say, the territories' population has been steadily increasing throughout all the time such restrictions have been in force.

Before 1991

The summary result of such restrictions is clear. They leave the Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied territories with only three options: to take employment inside Israel (or on the Israeli settlements); to emigrate; to acquiesce to a steady decline in their standard of living and to abandon all hope of its improvement.

As a result of the best efforts of the Israeli authorities, therefore, a vast number of Palestinians from the occupied territories were, by the end of 1990, earning their livelihood by working inside Israel. The exact number is unknown, even to the Israeli authorities, because the bulk of that workforce consisted of the "unauthorised workers," namely those who entered Israel and found employment and job opportunities by their own devices.

Formally this is illegal for both sides. According to the law, the occupied Palestinians are permitted to take employment inside Israel only via the Labour Office of the Israeli Civil Administration, every aspect of whose work is controlled by Shahak, the domestic intelligence organisation, otherwise known as Shin Bet. In reality, only about 50,000 chose, or were forced, to secure work permits in this way. As a rule, Israeli employers preferred to pay no taxes or social benefits for their "undocumented" workers, thus reaping profits while leaving no way for the data about them to enter official statistics.

A few of those employers were Palestinians, but the overwhelming majority were Israelis. The most conservative estimates, as of October 1990, of the numbers of Palestinian workers from the territories employed inside Israel were between 120,000, during times of low demand, and 150,000 when demand for agricultural labour was at its highest. Taking into account the great amounts of child labour, gives a much higher estimate: between 180,000 and 250,000, depending

New restrictions on Israel's Palestinian workforce

on the season. This workforce was concentrated in all kinds of poorly paid jobs, to the point of becoming predominant in three sectors of the economy: construction, unskilled agricultural work and the most menial and poorly paid municipal services, such as refuse disposal.

Behind the change of policy

Three factors of recent date have changed the policy of the Israeli authorities towards the employment of Palestinian workers from the territories:

1. The massive influx of Jews from the USSR and the need to provide them with employment under the restrictive conditions of the Israeli economy. But in the three above-mentioned sectors the attempt to replace the Palestinians with new immigrants has failed, and Palestinians still remain essential for the Israeli economy. On the other hand, the Soviet Jews are rapidly displacing the Palestinians from industrial jobs, no matter how menial.

2. The wave of random stabblings (largely initiated by Hamas) and other forms of violence against Israelis which began in November 1990. It has generated strong public pressure to bar the entry of Palestinians from the territories.

3. The popular support of the Palestinians in the territories for Saddam Hussein, exacerbated by their overt and ostentatious rejoicing when Iraqi missiles hit Israeli cities.

Considerations 1 and 2, together with the desire to suppress or at least paralyse the intifada, stood behind the decision of the Israeli authorities to impose a total curfew throughout the territories on Jan. 16. This made it impossible for the Palestinian workers to enter Israel. Towards the end of the Gulf war, however, the policy changed.

The end of "unauthorised labour"

The new policy, first formulated in the autumn of 1990 by the minister in charge of Arab affairs, David Magen, aims at the complete elimination of "unauthorised" Palestinian labour. The number of workers to be permitted to enter Israel and be employed there is subject to varying media estimates, and is probably not yet finally determined. It depends on the resolution of two debates currently going on within the Israeli establishment. First, Shabak and the other Israeli authorities in the territories are reportedly pressing for a higher number of permits, so as to increase the proportion of Palestinians totally dependent on them; while on the other hand, some politicians want to keep the number of permits to the minimum. The second debate concerns the aim of importation of labourers from abroad. Some want them to replace Palestinian labourers while others are apprehensive that this might be detrimental to Israeli workers. Still, the estimates of the number of permits to be issued are between 30,000 and 50,000. This is far lower than the number of workers employed in Israel before Jan. 16.

It does not follow that all permit holders will have to first apply to the Labour Office. The premises of the new policy were best described by Tzvi Gilat in Hadashot on Feb. 26.

As the inhabitants of the territories come back to work in Israel, only those with employment permits will be allowed in. Such permits can be obtained only upon submitting either a promise of employment from the prospective Israeli employer, or an approval by a local raia (headman) who enters the applicant's name in the files of the Labour Office, Israeli-Palestinian relations have been anyway badly damaged by the protracted curfew and by large scale dismissal of Arabs, without any compensation only in order to employ the immigrants in their place. Now, new conditions have been created which will encourage corruption on the part of both the Israeli employers and the raia on a large scale. Any businessman in an Israeli town will now have "his Arabs" holding employment permits and therefore free to move around Israel. The employer may grant or deny these privileges depending on his whim. As for the raia, who are not particularly reputed for honesty anyway, they will now find themselves at the mercy of the authorities, while "their Arabs" will now depend on their mercy more than ever. Who knows what kind of "inducements" may now pass from the workers to their raia, and from the latter to the pockets of Civil Administration officials. The Civil Administration has gained a lot of power. Its bureaucracy is now sure to expand, and its grip over the population is sure to be tightened, as everything becomes dependent on it.

The role of the raia

Most of these raia received weapons from the Israeli authorities long before the intifada and have kept them throughout. As a rule, they receive the salaries for the workers under their charge en bloc, from which they deduct commissions for themselves. In the Gaza Strip such commissions amount to 30 per cent for male workers, and 50 per cent for women and children; in the West Bank, where there are fewer raia, their commissions tend to be lower. They tend to treat their workers brutally, sometimes beating them in public. But they receive strong support from the community elders and other traditional Hamula leaders in the less developed segments of Palestinian society.

In exchange, the raia promise them to maintain discipline among "their" workers and to guard "the modesty of women." They tend to be on good terms with the PLO bureaucracy, which not only rarely criticises them, but even prevents ordinary Palestinians from doing so. They generally have a working relationship with the intifada leadership and the different underground groups; to the extent that of all the Palestinians armed by the Israeli authorities only the raia have been assaulted or even censured, either for their relations with the Israeli authorities, or for violating the formal injunctions of the intifada, or even for their major role in building Israeli settlements. Although one of the most corrupt segments of the Palestinian society, raia continue to enjoy respect and power in the community now perhaps more than ever.

The main aim of Israel's new policy is to increase the dependency of the Palestinian workers on the Shabak acting through Israeli employers and Palestinian raia. After all, in the Gaza Strip, the workers constitute the majority of male adults, while in the West Bank they are the next largest group after peasant farmers. Thus, by controlling the workers, the Israeli government hopes to control the territories in permanence, without their formal annexation.

Dr. Shahak, former professor of biochemistry at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, heads the Israeli League for Civil and Human Rights. The article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

Indian Communists pressing for power

By Bill Tarrant
Reuters

NEW DELHI — Communists may be in retreat elsewhere in the world but in India they still profess Marxism and are striving for power in this month's general election.

A coalition of leftist parties led by the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) has forged an electoral alliance with former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's National Front. Communists, with 52 seats in the outgoing parliament of 545 members, could hold the balance of power if no party emerges a clear winner after the election, which begins on May 20 and lasts over several days.

They may even join the government if Singh becomes the next prime minister, said Jyoti Basu, the CPI-M chairman and West Bengal's chief minister for the past 14 years.

Sources in the CPI-M said the party has not ruled out a partnership with the Congress party

either, if former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi tries to form a government without an absolute majority.

Basu, a 76-year-old London-trained lawyer, has even been mentioned as a compromise prime minister himself during the political machinations of the past 16 months when two minority non-Congress governments rose and fell.

"I suppose in desperation they thought of me. Very kind of them," said Basu, the suave and pragmatic face of the radical left, in a recent interview in Calcutta. "What we are saying to the people is 'yes we call ourselves Communists, but that is for the future.'" Basu said.

"For now we can just bring about reforms and do much better in running the government, assure democracy, so it's not really a socialist system," he said. Still, the CPI-M's election manifesto is filled with socialist

shibboleths such as nationalising industries and blocking the "increasing penetration of the economy by multinationals."

Prem Shankar Jha, Singh's press adviser, said the manifesto, was at odds with the National Front platform and a product of the party's "Stalinist mindset."

"Communist parties (in other countries) are scrambling to drop the word communist from their names. But none of this has even scratched the surface of the CPI-M's thinking," Jha wrote recently in the Economic Times, a leading financial daily.

Communist-led governments rule three Indian states — West Bengal and Tripura in the east and Kerala in the southwest. Kerala voted in the world's first elected Communist administration in 1957.

West Bengal and Kerala are due to hold state assembly polls at the same time as India's general election. Political analysts say Communists stand a good chance of remaining in power in the two

states. E.K. Nayanar, chief minister of the Communist-led state government in Kerala, says Communist governments in East Europe fell because they tinkered with Marxist orthodoxy.

"They massacred (former Romanian President Nicolae) Ceausescu, who fought for the country for the last 40 years. He was massacred," an agitated Nayanar said in an interview in the Kerala state capital of Thiruvandrum.

Ceausescu and his wife were executed by an army firing squad in the December 1989 overthrow of his government.

"Some wrong things have taken place. But people will correct it later," Nayanar said. "Forces are at work... working class forces, Marxism is not wrong, Marxism is correct."

Nayanar's critics say he does not practise what he preaches. "This isn't a Communist government," said A.K. Anthony.

Muslims seen shunning clergy's advice in Indian polls

By Jawed Naqvi
Reuters

NEW DELHI — The prayer-leader of India's most famous mosque urged the Muslim minority on Friday to vote for secularist former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh in this month's general election.

But political analysts say religious leaders like Delhi Imam Abdullah Bukhari, much-wooed by politicians ahead of polls, have lost their hold on India's 120 million Muslims, who will make up their own minds on how to keep Hindu nationalists out of power.

Bukhari told a news conference at his 17th century Jama Masjid (Friday mosque) that he found Singh's Janata Dal to be "reliable and secular which makes it deserving of Muslim support" in the May 20, 23 and 26 election.

"I appeal to all Muslim brothers and people from the oppressed classes to vote for the Janata Dal and not allow their votes to be divided or go waste," Bukhari said.

Singh lost power last November after the Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) withdrew its crucial support from his minority government.

The Muslim electorate is more important than ever this time as three major parties battle for the last few votes to get them ahead in India's first post-the-post system.

But Muslim analysts said Bukhari's appeal would merely divide the crucial minority vote as Muslims, fearing persecution under a resurgent Hindu nationalism, veered away from their clergy and sought to enter the country's secular mainstream.

Analysts said Muslims would cast tactical votes to forestall the BJP's maiden bid for power. Three-quarters of India's 850 million people are Hindu. At least 2,000 people have died in the past 18 months in Hindu-Muslim riots sparked by a BJP-backed campaign to take over the site of a 16th-century mosque in the northern holy town of Ayodhya.

The BJP supports a campaign to replace the mosque with a temple to Hindu god-king Lord Rama, alleging that Muslim invaders razed a temple marking his birthplace to build the mosque.

BJP leaders deny they are anti-Muslim, saying they merely oppose any political pandering to Muslim fundamentalism.

"What we are witnessing today is a churning process," said BJP theoretician K.R. Malkani. "The secularisation of Indian Muslim is under way," he added.

But Muslim voters in many towns have heard BJP supporters chanting slogans deriding them and accusing them of treachery. Syed Moazzam, publisher of

the progressive Urdu journal Hujoom, said Muslims would not listen to appeals like Bukhari's.

"It will be a tactical vote against communal forces (the BJP)," Moazzam said. "The days of our ghetto mentality are over. Indian Muslims are firmly with the secular mainstream."

Sitaram Kesari, a veteran leader of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party, said Muslims gave a substantial vote to his party in inconclusive 1989 polls despite claims that they deserted Congress and helped ensure its defeat.

"We expect even greater support this time," Kesari said. "While we made some mistakes which offended the community, we haven't lost our secular credentials. Muslims know this."

Muslims hold Gandhi responsible for stirring Hindu-Muslim tensions after his government allowed Hindus to perform prayers at the disputed site in Ayodhya, just before the 1989 election.

The criticism has not stopped Congress forging an electoral alliance this time in the southern state of Kerala with the locally influential Indian Union Muslim League.

In the populous northern state of Uttar Pradesh, where Ayodhya is sited, Muslims seem torn between loyalty to Singh and to Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar's tiny Samajwadi Janata

Party (SJP).

Singh lost power after he ordered the arrest of BJP leaders who were marching on the mosque site. The BJP withdrew support from Singh and Shekhar split Singh's party to take office.

Muslims say Singh "sacrificed his chair" to protect their rights. But Singh's chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati Singh Yadav, is lionised by Muslims for defending the mosque against a Hindu militant siege — and he went over to Shekhar.

"Muslims look divided today," said Jawed Hameed of the National Minority Front, a Muslim youth lobby. "But they are breaking loose from the conventional moulds. That's a good sign."

Hameed said Muslims were realising that involvement with emotional and religious issues was counter-productive. "We need to concentrate on our economic problems, our educational backwardness and social isolation a lot more," he said.

While he supported Singh, Hameed said Muslims should consider backing its moderate leaders, such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee who is contesting in Lucknow where there is a substantial Muslim vote.

"We have decided not to oppose Vajpayee. We feel we can talk to him. The BJP should draw its own inferences from our stand," Hameed said.

LETTERS

Jordan's central role acknowledged

Jordan would be a key interlocutor and "without Jordan it won't happen."

These are the words of British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd at the end of his visit to Jordan last week.

Indeed, one would have hoped that such words were uttered — back in August, when His Majesty King Hussein pleaded with the West to show farsightedness and even bandedness. Time and history have proven the King right.

The West has now admitted the central role of Jordan and its King as shown by the visits of James Baker and Douglas Hurd. In effect, they have come to realise that principled stands are the lasting factor in the political game.

One is full of hope that the West would have learnt some lessons from the bitter experiences of the recent past, and would follow King Hussein's advice in showing far-sightedness and fairness when it comes to solving the central question in the Middle East, namely that of Palestine.

Jordan is blessed with its people and the wisdom its leaders and certainly this region, can definitely do with more wisdom of the like.

Miss Lyl Harding
International Hotel,
Amman.

Solve it!

The following letter was sent to British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd during his visit to Amman last week.

THE British abandoning in May 1948 of their Palestinian protectorate is a crime against the Palestinians who have been left helpless to defend themselves against a cruel and well prepared enemy.

They have suffered since and continue. The British who stand by and watch must practice amnesia skillfully to justify their claim to fairness human values.

You caused it You solve it You may sleep better. The U.S. is not as free to be fair in solving this Palestinian catastrophe.

Jordan Watch Forum A.D.C.
Palestinian Mothers in the Diaspora

Bush

(Continued from page 1)

ness of breath and fatigue while jogging at Camp David, the presidential mountain retreat in Maryland.

Lloyd said tests to determine what had caused the problem were inconclusive and that "what triggered it, we won't know."

Doctors kept Bush in hospital for a second night on Sunday, hoping that the drugs, digoxin and procainamide, would correct the irregular heart rhythm.

Refugees

(Continued from page 1)

In the south of Iraq, United Nations peacekeepers are fully deployed on the Iraq-Kuwait border and the last remaining American troops in southern Iraq will withdraw Tuesday, officials said.

"We will be fully operational today," U.N. spokesman Majed Fayad said Monday in an interview at the SAS hotel in Kuwait City, which serves as headquarters for the peacekeeping mission.

Also, the U.S. army completed a nine days of airlifts that took 8,211 Iraqi refugees from the border town of Safwan, Iraq, to a Saudi Arabian camp in Rafha, said Lt. Col. John Kalb.

Kalb said 2,400 U.S. troops — the last American soldiers in southern Iraq — would withdraw Tuesday after they finished cleaning up the camp they have operated for almost two months.

The refugees came to the camp when a rebellion by Shi'ites in southern Iraq was crushed by President Saddam Hussein's army in the days following the end of the Gulf war.

The withdrawing U.S. troops will move only a few kilometres south into northern Kuwait, where the 3rd armoured division is headquartered, Kalb said.

In another development, the Iraqi government Monday said it has lifted censorship of the foreign press, imposed Jan. 17 as the first bombs fell on Baghdad at the start of the Gulf war.

"You are free to write whatever you please based on what you see and hear during your stay in Baghdad," a ministry of information official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The only reason cited was that censorship was no longer necessary. Officials told foreign journalists that they no longer need security clearance to file their reports.

But foreign journalists still will not be allowed to travel about Iraq freely without government escorts, and access to senior government officials remains limited.

Baker

(Continued from page 1)

Asked whether he had reason to be optimistic after his three previous trips failed to produce a breakthrough, Baker said:

"I have reason ... to think that we should continue this effort, that it is worth continuing and that there is some chance we might be successful."

But he cautioned, as he has frequently before, that no outsider could impose Middle East peace which could only come if the parties to the conflict decided they wanted true reconciliation.

Baker said he would keep trying in his mediation efforts as long as there was some chance of success.

Meanwhile, Shevardnadze proposed Monday that worldwide sanctions be imposed against Middle Eastern countries that refuse to participate in direct peace talks.

Launching his first speaking tour since quitting abruptly 4½ months ago, Shevardnadze said the danger of Soviet dictatorship that he warned about when he resigned has abated somewhat. And he expressed a measure of optimism that a recent pact between the leaders of nine Soviet republics may help avert chaos or civil war.

He called on the United States and other countries to extend bank credits and technical assistance to help avert economic and political catastrophe, which he said is likely if President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reforms fail.

Addressing the 75th anniversary celebration of the Brookings Institution, Shevardnadze said Secretary Baker needs help in his campaign to launch U.S.-led peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours. "Many have claimed places at the table but do little to get the talks started," Shevardnadze said. "There can be no justification for refusing to negotiate."

"We could apply sanctions to any country that refuses to negotiate directly" with other parties to a dispute that is before the U.N. Security Council, he suggested. He also proposed restricting arms shipments to the region to compel countries to end their arms race.

Laboratories find genetic patterns of disease

WASHINGTON (AP) — Researchers say they have found a way to more easily identify — and thereby treat — people at risk of a type of sudden cardiac death.

Meanwhile, other scientists say their isolation of a gene flaw involved in bladder cancer may lead to more effective screening for that disease.

A study of a Utah family has linked the inherited tendency for sudden death from heart attack, known as the Long QT Syndrome, to two specific gene markers "that can now be used to identify people at risk" according to a report published in the journal Science.

QT Syndrome has been difficult to detect with previous methods. But once known, treatment is available to deter a sudden attack.

A separate article in the same magazine said that at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, researchers have found that the mutation or

absence of a gene called P53 is one of the changes that can lead to bladder cancer. That discovery, too, may advance screening methods, a scientist said Thursday.

In the Utah study, Mark Keating of the University of Utah Health Sciences Centre said that his team studied the genetic pattern in the blood from members of a family that has reported sudden cardiac death in seven generations over 140 years.

He said the family members were known to inherit the tendency for Long QT Syndrome, a type of heart arrhythmia and named for the pattern it creates in an electrocardiogram exam.

Keating said people with Long QT Syndrome have fainting spells and many experience sudden fatal heart attacks. Death comes when the heart goes into ventricular fibrillation and cannot pump blood to the brain or other organs. Without emergency aid, a patient can

die within four minutes.

People with the syndrome, however, have been difficult to identify because the electrocardiogram signs are so variable.

"We've found genetic markers that can now be used to identify people who are at risk of sudden death from the QT Syndrome," he said.

QT Syndrome can be treated successfully, Keating said. Researchers now are looking for the specific gene that causes the heart problem.

In the other gene study, researchers at Johns Hopkins examined 18 bladder tumours and found that 11 contained alterations in a gene called P53. They also discovered that the mutated P53 gene could be detected in the urine of bladder cancer patients.

Mutated or missing P53 has been linked to cancers of the colon, lung, breast, liver and bone.

He got in the way of somebody's war.



Nine out of ten casualties in modern warfare are civilians. The vast majority of its victims never wore a uniform or carried a gun.

In the so-called "post-war" period since 1945, at least 30 million people have died in over 100 conflicts. A further 60 million have been wounded, imprisoned, separated from their families and forced to flee their homes or their countries.

In over 30 armed conflicts, this human misery is happening now. Yet the Geneva Conventions — ratified by 164 states — lay down clear rules that all victims of war living under the darkness of conflict must be respected.

They have the right to protection from murder, torture, starvation and being taken hostage.

To focus attention on the plight of millions of civilians caught in the crossfire, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is launching a worldwide campaign to ensure that they get the protection and assistance to which they are entitled under international law.

No matter who. No matter where. No matter when.

We call on governments and combatants everywhere to respect the rights of all victims who get in the way of somebody's war. Help us to help them.



World Campaign for the Protection of Victims of War

The arms race or the human race?

"FOR 50 years since 1939, our world has been preoccupied by war, by the fighting of war, by the preparing for war, by the paying for war. In all these forms war has distorted our economies, deflected our industries, dominated our research and development, and diverted the finest scientific minds of two generations." In these words, UNICEF sums up "The State of the World's Children 1990."

Another publication, sponsored by the U.N. Department for Disarmament Affairs and issued by the International Organisation Soka Gakkai attempts to quantify the cost of the arms race:

*One half-hour of military spending by the developed countries costs \$36 million. This is enough to help 750,000 people in the Third World become self-sufficient in food production.

*One nuclear-powered submarine costs \$1,400 million. This is enough to fund a 5-year child immunisation programme against six killer diseases, preventing one million deaths per year.

*One nuclear test explosion costs \$12 million. This is enough to pay for 80,000 hand-pumps to supply safe drinking water to Third World villages, or 20 schools for refugee children.

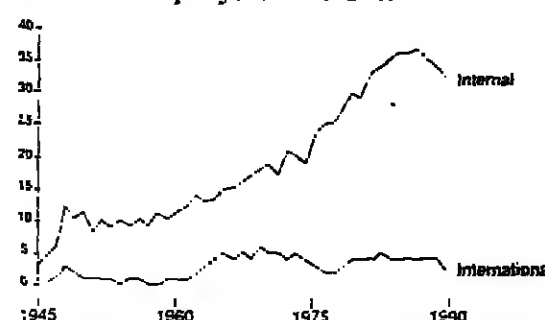
*One twin-engine military helicopter costs \$11.5 million. This is enough to provide insecticides to the households of eight million Africans suffering from insect-carried diseases.

In the introduction, U.N. Secretary General Pérez de Cuellar, says: "It is now widely recognised that economic growth and

social progress together with a secure environment are inseparably linked to prospects for lasting peace."

Daisaku Ikeda, the President of Soka Gakkai, adds: "It is in the victory over the forces of violence and inhumanity that the nobility of the human spirit finds its proof." — Reprinted from the Magazine of International Red Cross and Red Crescent.

International and internal armed conflicts per year 1945-1989



Adapted from E. Lindgren, Valdens Krig (Wars in the World), Swedish Institute of International Affairs, Stockholm 1990

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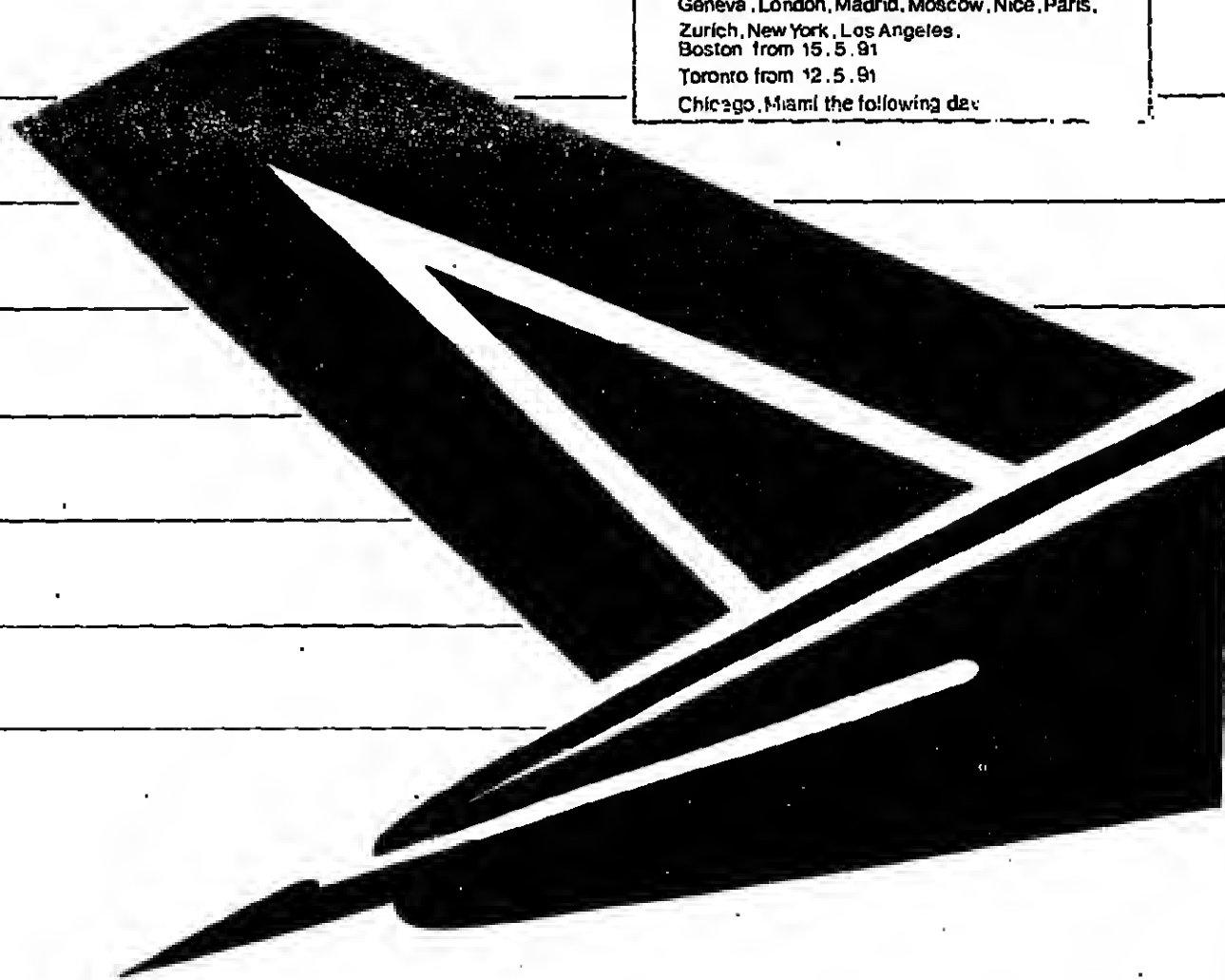
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Swede finally realises dream of lifting world table tennis crown

CHIBA, Japan (R) — Swede Jorgen Persson realised his dream of becoming World Table Tennis Champion Monday when he overcame Jan-Ove Waldner in the men's singles final.

Persson, 25, avenging his defeat by Waldner in the last championship final in 1989, needed only 32 minutes to beat his team mate and arch-rival 21-19 21-18 21-18 with some sparkling, forehand smashes.

"I feel terrific, I could not feel better," said Persson, the sixth seed.

"I did not think I would get another chance to win the title. I told myself to play my own game — I was very relaxed from the beginning."

"My tactics were to play as many forehands as possible to put

him under pressure. The most important reason for my win, though, was that his serves were not as good as usual."

Waldner, who had beaten Persson in their past six meetings, said his poor form in the first game put him under immediate pressure.

"I had a bad start and was losing 1-9. I just could not get into it after that although I tried hard to concentrate," said world number one Waldner.

"I have said a good year winning three tournaments so I do not feel too bad. Today Persson was better than me — when you play good you have the gods with you."

Waldner only showed flashes of his true form and amazingly only led twice in the anti-

climatic final.

It was the first meeting between the same two players in consecutive finals since the 1960s.

"We talked about two Swedes meeting in the final two years ago and said it was impossible for it to happen again," said Persson.

"Last time we practised together before the final. This time we had lunch together but practised with different partners."

Sweden won three gold medals at the championships adding the singles crown to their earlier victories in the men's team and men's doubles event.

Earlier China took their tally to three golds when Chen Zhe and Gao Jun, the sixth seeds, defeated defending champions Qiao Hong and Deng Yaping to

take the women's doubles crown. The Chinese also won the women's singles and mixed doubles titles.

Chen and Gao combined well to surprise the top seed 22-20 20-22 21-18 21-17.

The only gold medal to go outside China or Sweden was the historic first win in the women's team event for the unified Korean team.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch, visiting the championships Monday, said, "It's very good to have the unified Korean team taking part in the World Championships here. We also hope a Korean unified team will compete in the World Youth Soccer Championships in Portugal in June."



Sergei Bubka

Bubka breaks pole vault world record for 10th time

SHIZUOKA, Japan (R) — Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union broke the world pole vault record for the 10th time Monday when he cleared 6.07 metres at an international athletics meeting.

The 30-year-old Ukrainian, who set the previous outdoor mark of 6.06 metres in Nice, France, three years ago, set the record with his second attempt.

Bubka has already broken the world indoor record four times this year, taking the mark to 6.12 metres in Grenoble, France, on March 23.

Bubka made his vault at the

Toto International Super Athletics meet at the Kusanagi Stadium in Shizuoka, 150 kilometres southwest of Tokyo.

Meanwhile Seppo Rata of Finland set a men's javelin world record of 91.98 metres at the athletics meeting, beating the previous best mark by exactly a metre.

The 29-year-old world champion erased the previous mark of 90.98 metres set on July 20 last year by Briton Steve Backley.

Rata set his record in the third round after indifferent opening efforts of 77.68 and 77.36 metres.

Italian Tennis Open envisions 'dream final'

ROME (AP) — It's only beginning yet the talk of the Italian Open is a "dream final."

That would be a match pitting the two hottest players on the women's tennis tour, defending champion and top seed Monica Seles and No. 2 seed Gabriela Sabatini, winner of the Italian title in 1988 and 1989.

The \$500,000 women's event is followed a week later by the \$1.2-million men's tournament.

Seles was locked in a rain-delayed German Open final with Steffi Graf in Hamburg, but it didn't affect play in this event since the top seven seeds all drew byes.

Opening-day matches involving seeds included No. 9 Nathalie Tauziat of France against qualifier Rene Altier of Canada; No. 11 Sandra Cecchini of Italy against Karine Quirion of France; Mercedes Paz, No. 14, against fellow Argentinian Bettina Fulco, another qualifier; and Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, No. 15, against Julie Halard of France.

The clay court classic, a major test before the French Open, drew its best field in years. But Graf, ranked No. 2 in the world, did not enter.

The 54-player draw also includes Martina Navratilova, Mar-

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MAY 7, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is one of those rare days when most everything should sail along like a breeze for there is a benign feeling in the air that indicates that others want to get things done and please others.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your outside duties and new projects seem to be divided so that in the morning be sure to arrange everything carefully, then tonight will be fine.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Make sure that you do handle with care that private anxiety this morning but the evening brings you wonderful help from an experienced pioneer.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Matters at your own home can be tense early so add no fuel to the burning embers of discord but later you can join friends and have a great time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is your morning to get out and stop fussing about personal anxieties, then the evening finds you are able to contact a bigwig for help.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) There are a number of financial problems that need careful attention early but later you find you can get off to new starts with interesting friends.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is your time to make sure you have the fortune to let those

about see you follow laws and rules scrupulously to make your affairs more secure.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have all kinds of pressures early to limit yourself but if you do you miss a big chance to advance quickly in harmony with an active ally.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good friend interferes early if you let with some obligation you have to perform so keep working and tonight finds you with new inspiration.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you have in mind that means annoying or getting in dutch with a bigwig, forget it this morning then later all things work out.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you would like to do that brings you ill will from any quarter be sure to avoid but later the evening is best for family relations.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get rid of that longtime obligation, that annoys you this morning, then the evening is your time to get off with brilliant allies on hobbies.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take good care in the morning to do nothing to interfere with your reputation, then later you find that you can have more of this world's goods.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Graf beats Seles in German Open

HAMBURG (AP) — Steffi Graf completed a rain-delayed victory over top-ranked Monica Seles in the final of the Women's German Open Tennis Tournament Monday to win her second title of the year. Graf, who wasted two match before the final was halted by rain Sunday with her leading 2-1 in the third set, prevailed in the third set when it was resumed Monday and won 7-5, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3. Seles suffered her second defeat by Graf since replacing Graf at the top of the world standings in March. Graf also beat Seles for the title at the San Antonio tournament in March. Graf held the top spot for a record 186 weeks before she was dethroned by the 17-year-old Florida-based Yugoslav. But she is 2-0 against Seles since then.

Agassi makes confident start on clay

ATLANTA, Georgia (R) — Andre Agassi completed a successful warm-up for the European clay court season when he won an eight-player exhibition event with a 7-6 6-1 victory in the final over fellow American David Wheaton Sunday. Agassi collected \$100,000 for winning this event for the third successive year and chalked up some valuable match experience on clay. "This was some of my best tennis," he said. "I felt great about the way I was playing. I beat the world number four, who will next play at Wimbledon." Agassi is 1-0 in his first two matches on clay.

Reneberg captures 1st title in Tampa

TAMPA, Florida (R) — American Richey Reneberg captured his first career professional title Sunday when he beat Czechoslovak Peter Korda 4-6 6-4 6-2 in the final of the \$250,000 Clay Courts of Tampa Tennis Tournament. It was the second career final for both players and each was seeking his first title. But the top-seeded Reneberg made the most of his opportunities while Korda squandered numerous chances.

Arrese wins Madrid tennis final

MADRID (R) — Spain's 26-year-old Jordi Arrese won his third professional tennis title Sunday when he beat Uruguayan Marcelo Filippini 6-2 6-4 in the final of the Madrid International ATP Tournament. The seventh-seed Arrese's powerful forehand and tight backhand more than compensated for the tactical skills of the fifth-seeded Uruguayan on the clay court. Arrese last month spoiled the attempted comeback of former world number one Bjorn Borg when he beat the Swede in the first round of the Monte Carlo Open. In Sunday's second set, Arrese moved up to the net and beat back the 23-year-old Filippini with confident volleys.

U.S. downs Uruguay in soccer

DENVER (AP) — Score one for Bora Milutinovic and score another one for Denver. In his first appearance as coach of the United States soccer team, the Yugoslavian-born Milutinovic guided the Americans to a 1-0 victory over Uruguay before a crowd of 35,772 at Mile High Stadium Sunday. Peter Vermes outsmarted a Uruguayan offside trap and scored off a free kick cross by Chris Henderson in the 26th minute for the game's lone goal. The U.S. combated Uruguay's 15-5 shooting advantage with a balanced team attack and goalkeeping by the game's most valuable player, Tony Meola. Meola made seven saves and carried off his line to kick away a breakthrough by Uruguay's Victor Lopez in the 33rd minute to preserve the victory.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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TOMMY TAMES GENEVA

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A 4
♥ J 5 2
♦ A 7 2
♣ A 8 5 3

WEST
♠ 10
♥ A K Q 4
♦ 8 3
♣ K Q 9 6 4 2

EAST
♠ J 7 5 2
♥ 10 9 8
♦ 10 9 5 4
♣ J 7

SOUTH
♠ K Q 9 8 6 3
♥ 7 6 3
♦ K Q J
♣ 10

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
Trump Coup Tommy happened to be traveling in Europe during the time of the World Bridge Olympiad in Geneva, Switzerland, so he thought he might as well drop in for a few sessions of the side game. As our readers are aware, Tommy was a rather ordinary player who had the amazing knack of playing like a master when trumps broke badly, but undistinguishedly at other times. Although he was no match for the internationalists, he earned

bragging rights on this hand for his fellow members back at the club. Tommy sat South and soon found himself in a four-spade contract. North's one-club opening bid had kept a vulnerable West out of the bidding. The defenders started with three rounds of hearts, and West shifted to the king of clubs. Tommy took the ace, and had he routinely tried the ace and king of spades next, the contract would have been defeated — East would have had to score a trump trick.

In this type of situation, though, Tommy never made a mistake. First he ruffed a club, then came the king of spades from hand and a spade to the ace. Had both defenders followed, Tommy would have returned to hand with a diamond to draw the last trump and claim the game, but when West discarded a club on the second spade, Tommy's careful preparation paid a huge dividend.

A club was ruffed in the closed hand, followed by three rounds of diamonds, ending in dummy. East was now down to 1 ♠ in trumps, and Tommy was poised to strike with ♠ 9. When a minor-suit card was led from the table, East was couped out of a trump trick, and Tommy's syntique remained intact.

Late goals keep Bayern in Bundesliga title race

HAMBURG, Germany (R) — Goals in the last three minutes by German World Cup stars Olaf Thon and Stefan Reuter gave Bayern Munich a spectacular 3-2 away win over Hamburg to keep alive their Bundesliga title hopes.

With the home side leading 2-1, midfielder Thon fired a spectacular 30-metre shot into the top right hand corner in the 87th minute before defender Reuter latched onto a header from Manfred Bender in the last minute to secure two vital points.

With six games remaining, the victory lifted Bayern into second place in the table, four points behind leaders Kaiserslautern in one of the most exciting finishes in the German first division for years.

Werder Bremen, the 1988 champions, lie third level on points with the Bavarians after dropping a point in a 1-1 draw at home to Bayer Leverkusen Saturday.

Bayern, the reigning champions, and Hamburg were level on points before the clash, both

knowing that defeat would have virtually ended their title chances.

Reuter, who is leaving the club for Juventus next season, steered the Bavarians ahead in the ninth minute after the diminutive Thon put him clear with a neat pass through the centre of the Hamburg defence.

But the home side battled back on a pitch dampened by persistent rain.

Brazilian striker Nando hit a well-earned equaliser on the half hour. Polish striker Jan Furtok seemed to have sealed the issue in the 78th minute when he hooked the ball home after Bayern keeper Raimond Aumann failed to hold on a corner.

But Bayern never gave up although coach Jupp Heynckes admitted afterwards that his team were lucky to win.

"I hope this victory has created new hope in the team that can defend the title," he said.

"Whatever happens we are going to be in the race for the title right until the end."

Barcelona extends league lead as Atletico flops

MADRID (R) — Barcelona extended their Spanish Soccer League lead to nine points when second-placed Atletico Madrid flopped at home.

Atletico's hopes all ended when they were held to a goalless draw by bottom club Cadiz, who put up a solid wall of defence to win their ever point at the Vicente Calderon Stadium.

Barcelona had a 2-1 home win over Real Zaragoza and, with just five matches left, they are virtually home and dry.

Defending champions Real Madrid won a yellow-card battle over Tenerife 1-0 thanks to a goal by midfielder Michel Gonzalez

from a penalty in the 33rd minute.

The referee handed out nine bookings, including one each for Real's Yugoslav coach Radomir Antic and Tenerife's Argentine coach Jorge Solari for protesting at his decisions.

The win maintained Real's recovery, leaving them fourth on goal difference and moving them a step closer to a place in next season's UEFA Cup.

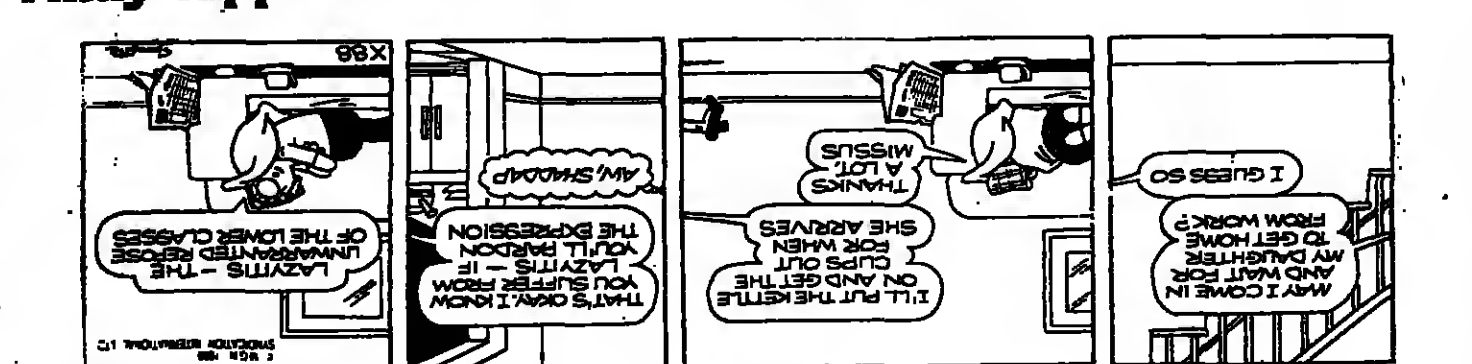
Barcelona outclassed 17th-placed Zaragoza, who seemed intimidated by their rivals.

Winger Juan Gorkoetxea began the move which led to the first goal in the 23rd minute.

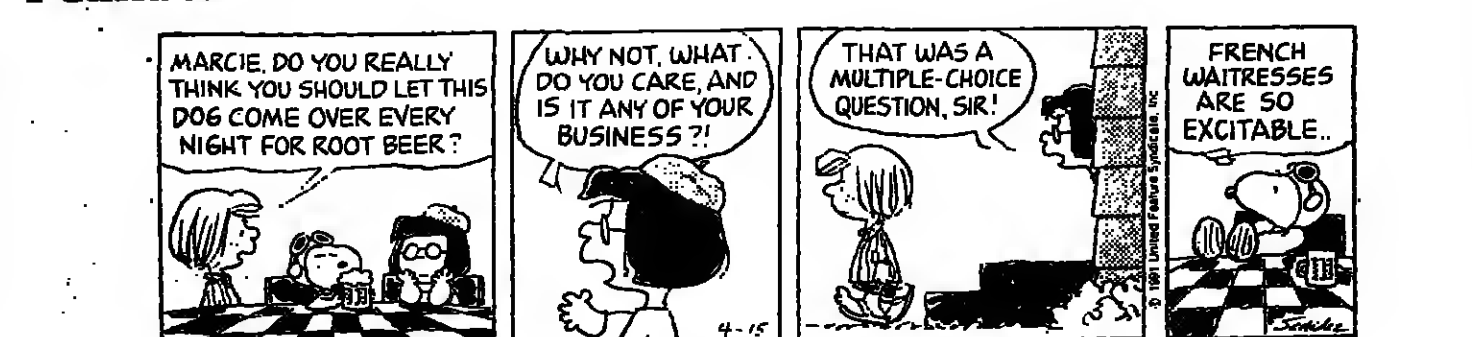
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



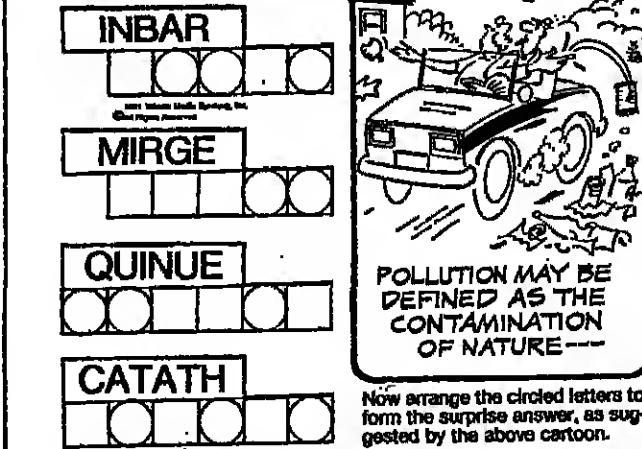
THE BETTER HALF.



"The first two chapters of my diet book taught me how to live on 300 calories a day. I ate the last three chapters."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



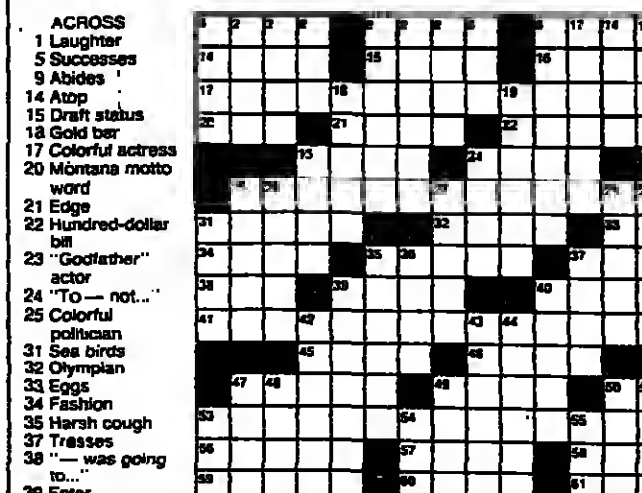
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: BY

Ye... today's Jumble: VENOM WAGER STRONG HOPPER
Answer: Many a man drinks in order to forget... WHEN TO STOP

THE Daily Crossword

by James E. Hirsch Jr.



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- Across**
- 1 Laughter
 - 5 Successes
 - 9 Abides
 - 14 Atop
 - 15 Draft status
 - 18 Gold bar
 - 17 Colorful motto
 - 20 Montana actress
 - 21 Edge
 - 22 Hundred-dollar bill
 - 23 "Godfather" actor
 - 24 "To — not —"
 - 25 Colorful politician
 - 31 Sea birds
 - 32 Olympian
 - 33 Eggs
 - 34 Fashion
 - 35 Harsh cough
 - 37 Tresses
 - 38 " — was going to..."
 - 39 Enter
 - 40 Beauty
 - 41 Colorful TV series
 - 45 Mineral vein
 - 46 Daughter of Eurycles
 - 47 Golden —
 - 48 Awards
 - 49 "War is —"
 - 50 Old —
 - 53 Colorful novelist
 - 56 Fido's friend
 - 57 Proficient
 - 58 Biblical word
 - 59 Chasm
 - 60 Owing bird
 - 61 Garfield's greeting
 - 28 "And —, a good"
 - 29 Vices
 - 30 Steak order
 - 31 Part of CEO
 - 35 Weather word
 - 36 Far
 - 40 Dams
 - 47 Present
 - 48 Vagrant
- Down**
- 1 St. Nick's cry
 - 3 Idiot
 - 4 Branch
 - 5 Good cheer
 - 6 Diamond division
 - 7 Abound
 - 8 Droop
 - 9 Separates chair from wheel
 - 10 Cat or goat
 - 11 " — plenty..."
 - 12 Decorative metal
 - 13 Norm. abbr.
 - 14 Construction places
 - 19 Froze
 - 23 Indian
 - 24 "Sacred —"
 - 25 Insouciant
 - 26 Mr. Dickinson
 - 27 Pure air
 - 28 "And —, a good"
 - 29 Vices
 - 30 Steak order
 - 31 Part of CEO
 - 35 Weather word
 - 36 Far
 - 40 Dams
 - 47 Present
 - 48 Vagrant
 - 40 Debts
 - 42 Boxing's " —"
 - 43 Alloy
 - 44 Writer Harry
 - 47 Mass
 - 48 Roman historian
 - 49 Vagrant
 - 50 Climber
 - 51 "Tell — the judge"
 - 52 Dog
 - 53 "A man —"
 - 54 "I got a —"
 - 55 Silent

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1991 7

In its continuous drive to improve coverage of its economic and financial news and analysis, the Jordan Times, in cooperation with Cairo Amman Bank, begins today a new daily service which expands on the financial activities in the local and international markets. The Jordan Times hopes that this section, which will appear daily except Sundays, would be of benefit to the readers whom we encourage to suggest any further improvement for the future.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times

In co-operation with

Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets closing opening			
Currency	NEW YORK	Europe	
	3/5/91	6/5/91	
Sterling Pound	1.6935	1.7030	
Deutsche Mark	1.7495	1.7380	
Swiss Franc	1.4765	1.4680	
French Franc	5.9180	5.8850	
Japanese Yen	138.85	138.25	
European Currency Unit	1.1745	1.1830	

* USD Per STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 4/5/91					
Currency	1 MTH	2 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	5.87	5.93	6.06	6.50	
Sterling Pound	11.68	11.50	11.50	11.00	
Deutsche Mark	8.87	9.00	9.12	9.18	
Swiss Franc	8.37	8.31	8.25	7.93	
French Franc	9.06	9.06	9.06	9.18	
Japanese Yen	8.00	7.75	7.62	7.37	
European Currency Unit	9.54	9.46	9.46	9.44	

International bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date:					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	354.74	6.70	Silver	3.97	.087

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date:		
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.680	.684
Sterling Pound	1.1606	1.1676
Deutsche Mark	.3921	.3945
Swiss Franc	.4643	.4671
French Franc	.1158	.1165
Japanese Yen	.4915	.4944
Dutch Guilder	.3481	.3502
Swedish Krona	.1100	.1107
Italian Lira	.0529	.0532
Belgian Franc	.01899	.01910

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Date:		
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7500	1.7700
Lebanese Lira	.074	.076
Saudi Riyal	.1800	.1820
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1835	.1840
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7700
UAE Dirham	.1830	.1840
Greek Drachma	.350	.365
Cypriot Pound	1.4200	1.4400

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	4/5/91	Close	5/5/91	Close
All-Share	114.23		114.60	
Banking Sector	110.77		111.39	
Insurance Sector	110.06		110.37	
Industry Sector	118.76		118.78	
Services Sector	124.01		123.95	

* December 31, 1990 = 100

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Australia demands payment before selling wheat to Baghdad

SYDNEY (R) — Australia, a major supplier of wheat to Iraq before the Gulf war, said Monday it had opened talks with Baghdad on resuming sales but wanted outstanding debts resolved before agreements could be reached. An Australian negotiating team had met with Iraqi officials in Amman but the talks ended Sunday without agreement, a spokesman for the Australian Wheat Board (AWB) said. The spokesman denied a Jordanian newspaper report that a one million tonne sale had been settled. "It is still far too early to talk about contracts and supply," the AWB spokesman said. Payments of 600 million dollars (\$470 million) from Iraq were suspended when Australia stopped wheat shipments at the outbreak of the Gulf war. There was a desire on both sides to do business, but "at the moment there is the question of capacity to pay," the AWB's Middle East marketing manager, Charles Stott, said Monday in an Australian Broadcasting Commission interview from Amman. "The Iraqis really need some assets unfrozen to buy foodstuffs that are desperately needed in the country or they need to be able to start exporting oil again to generate income so they can buy foodstuffs," Stott said. Australia would not violate the United Nations trade embargo on Iraq by selling wheat, but would have to notify the U.N. sanctions committee that wheat was being shipped to meet humanitarian needs, AWB officials said. Australia had hoped to ship 1.8 million tonnes of wheat to Iraq in the 1990-91 financial year ending June 30 after sales of 1.4 million tonnes in 1989-90. Before its invasion of Kuwait last August, Iraq had imported about 3.5 million tonnes of grain a year. Much of Iraq's foreign trade remains paralysed under the United Nations embargo and a shortage of foreign exchange. Iraq earlier said it has signed agreements to import Australian wheat and Thai rice after the easing of U.N. sanctions. The Iraqi News Agency quoted Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh as saying Sunday that the agreements would allow Iraq to buy one million tonnes of wheat and 200,000 tonnes of rice. Saleh, back in Baghdad after a visit to Jordan, said the deals were struck in Amman with the AWB and a delegation representing Thai companies. "The cost of these amounts of wheat and rice would be paid from the frozen funds which Iraq has asked the Security Council to release," INA quoted the minister as saying. The U.N. Security Council's sanctions committee has authorised the unfreezing of Iraqi funds to enable it to pay for essential imports. Saleh told the Jordanian daily Sawt Al Sha'b the wheat would be shipped by way of Jordan's Red Sea port city of Aqaba. "The amount that I have discussed in Amman with the president of the AWB has international approval," Saleh said, "referring to the easing of the U.N. trade embargo. Saleh said Iraq was seeking other sources of grain supplies but gave no details.

Kremlin signs over coalfields to Russia

MOSCOW (R) — The Kremlin signed over control of the big Siberian coal mines to the Russian Federation Monday, paving the way for an end to the nine-week miners strike, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told parliament. He said the deal, which he championed as part of his running battle with the central government, was signed by Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Demutsky. Militant miners in the Siberian Kuzbass, whose original demands included greater economic autonomy and the resignation of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, have said they would return to work if the deal were signed by the Kremlin. A spokesman for the regional strike committee in Kuzbass, the biggest Soviet coalfield, said strikers would meet Tuesday to debate the transfer, which includes greater autonomy. It also allows mines to retain most hard currency from coal exports for investment and miners' benefits. Russia's strike-hit coalfields have emerged as a critical battleground between Yeltsin — Demanding greater republican control of valuable resources — and his arch-rival Gorbachev. The transfer, worked out by the populist Russian leader and miners in the Kuzbass last week, would also break the grip of the Soviet coal ministry as part of a decentralisation backed by Yeltsin and the democratic opposition movement. Yeltsin signed a resolution approving the plan before a May Day crowd in the Kuzbass mining city of Novokuznetsk but final approval lay with the Kremlin.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — The Tokyo market was closed until Tuesday for national holidays. The Nikkei index fell 11.14 points Thursday to 26,477.86. SYDNEY — Foreign buying of leading stocks boosted the market with the All Ordinaries Index closing up 4.6 points to 1522.4. FRANKFURT — German shares ended lower in quiet trade as more negative factors emerged to depress the market. The Dax Index closed 7.85 points lower at 1,628.99. ZURICH — Shares closed easier but off lows after the blue-chip Index recovered from a brief dip below chart support at 1,650 points. The SPI Index fell 2.7 points to 1,079.7. The SMI lost 6.9 points to 1,657.3. PARIS — Share prices ended slightly lower in lethargic trading, due to the absence of traders taking a holiday. The CAC-40 fell 3.5 points, or 0.19 per cent, to 1,828.77 points. LONDON — The market was closed for a bank holiday. On Friday, the FTSE Index lost eight points to 2,522.7. NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips recovered losses in mid-morning as investors stepped in to buy on the market's early weakness. The Dow was unchanged at about 2989.

Israel to ask U.S. for \$10b loan guarantees in September

NEW YORK (R) — Israel's U.S. ambassador said Sunday his country would soon request \$10 billion in loan guarantees from Washington for an influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants and urged its closest ally not to link the aid to concessions for peace. Saying the world owed Israel and the Jewish people "a debt to normalise Jewish history," Ambassador Zalman Shoval said any failure to absorb the new immigrants could "spell disaster for the future of the Jewish people." In a speech to the American Jewish Committee, Shoval said Israel needed about \$40 billion to supply housing, jobs and other needs for an estimated one million immigrants over the next five years. About half that amount could be supplied by Israel and Jews abroad, but the remainder had to come from the international community, he said. "We are going to ask the United States government and Congress and we're going to do that very soon, in September, for additional immigrant absorption guarantees of up to an amount of about \$10 billion over the next five years — \$2 billion every year," Shoval said. Israel received \$400 million in loan guarantees from Washington in March and agreed not to make any more requests until September as part of a deal in which it also got \$650 million in special aid to compensate it for the economic costs of the Gulf war. Shoval said once the United States agreed to grant Israel the

loan guarantees, the Zionist state hoped Europe and Japan would follow suit with additional assistance. "We are going to approach the American government. We can only hope and pray that the attitude of those whom we are going to approach with our request will be a humanitarian one and that this will not be linked with political considerations of the moment," he said. Shoval said the loan guarantees should not be seen as "a tool to bring Israel to accept certain concessions in the peace-making process," but as a major humanitarian effort and an attempt "to correct past wrongs to the Jewish people." Hawkish Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon Thursday accused Washington of trying to force the Zionist state to "trade land for Jews" by suggesting it would withhold the guarantees for the absorption of the new immigrants. Shoval denied Washington was already using the assistance as leverage to force Israel to make concessions for peace or that Baker was laying the blame on Israel for the deadlock in his latest Middle East peace efforts. The U.S. ambassador to Israel, William Brown, Friday criticised Israel's settlement and economic policies, and warned the Zionist state it was not assured of billions of dollars in aid to absorb the new immigrants. Israel receives more U.S. aid — \$3 billion a year — than any other country.

Egypt to introduce single exchange rate next year, lift price controls by '94

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian government said Sunday it would remove price controls within three years and introduce a single exchange rate by February next year. Prime Minister Atef Sedki, quoted in the Monday edition of the semi-official newspaper Al Ahram, said the state would lift price controls for goods and services gradually and then leave them "to the forces of the market without any interference." The government announced steep price rises two days ago and the new measures, as they come into force, are expected to keep prices rising. But Sedki said that foodstuffs, especially basic ones which affect low-income earners, would be exempt. He also said the government aimed to cut its budget deficit to 3.5 per cent from 9.5 over the coming three years. The new single exchange rate, expected to be the free-floating rate, would be in place by Feb. 27 next year. Earlier this year the government floated the Egyptian pound in line with economic reforms prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The pound rapidly fell to around 3.32 pounds to the dollar from about 2.9 and the government then introduced an official rate of 3.19 pounds to finance vital imports. Egypt imports more than 60 per cent of its food and most of its

56 million people depend on state-subsidised goods. In a May 1 speech, President Hosni Mubarak said the government has been using most of its foreign currency earnings from the Suez Canal and tourism, a combined total of over \$3 billion a year, to subsidise food imports. The price rises Friday covered petrol, cooking fuel and other energy products. They were part of an attempt to cut the budget deficit and win fresh credits and debt relief from Egypt's Western allies. The country has a foreign debt of about \$35 billion and a budget deficit estimated at up to \$4.5 billion for the fiscal year ending June 30. Egypt and the IMF have been locked in tough negotiations for the past three years, with Cairo insisting on a gradual introduction of a market economy. It argues that introducing reforms as fast as the IMF has proposed could lead to social unrest similar to the bread riots of 1977. The government was then forced to back down on rises in the price of bread.



Atef Sedki

Western German engineers agree 1991 wage rise of 6.7 per cent

FRANKFURT (R) — The powerful engineering union IG Metall Sunday agreed a 6.7 per cent pay rise for 700,000 workers in southern Germany which it described as a benchmark for more than three million other members in western Germany. Employers said the rise exceeded their goals, and they warned that job losses and price increases could result. The agreement followed widespread token strikes in the past week. More than 200,000 western German workers staged wildcat walkouts last Tuesday to support their claim for a 10 per cent rise after rejection of a management offer of four per cent. Wage agreements for western German engineers will not directly affect wages in what used to be East Germany until next April when they are due to reach 71 per cent of western levels. Current plans call for eastern wages to attain full western levels by 1994. Negotiators for IG Metall and the employers' association VMI said the 6.7 per cent pay rise agreed Sunday for the 700,000 workers in the northern part of Baden-Wuerttemberg state was accompanied by benefits which made it worth seven per cent. These included a minimum pay rise of 110 marks (\$64) a month for apprentices and pay scale adjustments which would give lowest paid qualified workers more than 12 per cent. "We are less than satisfied with this agreement," VMI chief negotiator Dieter Hundt told reporters. "We are concerned that it will cause difficulties for many companies and could lead to job losses. But we had no alternative." "The agreement will have an unfavourable impact on inflation and will mean slower investment activity," he said. Hundt said pay deals in the public sector and in construction had paved the way for the engineering agreement. In March, public sector employees agreed a six per cent pay rise. This was accompanied by benefits which made the real cost much higher. Construction workers achieved a basic seven per cent settlement last month. "It was a condition of this agreement that the total package of a seven per cent rise be established for other western German (states)," Hundt said. The rise takes effect June 1. IG Metall holds separate pay

negotiations in each west German state. Employer and employee officials at national level were also present at Sunday's key negotiations. Walter Riester, IG Metall manager in northern Baden-Wuerttemberg, said: "The settlement is a hard-wrought compromise reached without (full) industrial action, which is justifiable and workable." But German economists tended to support the employers' view that the 6.7 per cent engineers' settlement was too high when compared with current inflation of under three per cent and a forecast rise in productivity of around two per cent in 1991. "High settlements in other areas had already awakened fears of a settlement of this size," said Peter Pietsch, economist at Commerzbank. "It is well beyond the level which would melt into the economic landscape without any risk to price stability." "It means the Bundesbank (central bank) is going to stick to its tight monetary policy," Pietsch said. Other industrial sectors would also be likely to use the 6.7 per cent agreement as a benchmark, he added. VMI negotiator Hundt also expressed concern that higher wage costs in the west might restrict investment in eastern Germany in particular. "Lower investment is likely to have an unfavourable impact on progress in the east," Hundt said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, May 6, 1991					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	680.0	684.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	491.5	494.4
Pound Sterling	1160.6	1167.6	Dutch guilder	348.1	350.2
Deutsche mark	392.1	394.5	Swedish crown	110.0	110.7
Swiss franc	464.3	467.1	Italian lire (for 100)	52.9	53.2
French franc	115.8	116.5	Belgian franc (for 100)	189.9	191.0

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Cinema Tel: 675571
NIJOM
Mahmoud Abdul Aziz
in
ABU KARTONEH
Arabic
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
Fm Abdo / Adel Adham
Mahmoud Al Jundi
in
NOOR AL UYOON
Arabic
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155
RAINBOW
TEMPLE OF DOOM
Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

IBM sees uncertain outlook for this year

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (R) — The outlook for International Business Machines Corp (IBM) remains uncertain this year because of the few signs of economic recovery, particularly in the United States, IBM Chairman John Akers has said. "We have seen no evidence yet to indicate any improvement in the near term, and consequently the year remains uncertain," he told shareholders at the computer giant's annual meeting. "While we'd like to believe economic recovery is just around the corner, we'll have to wait and see." IBM posted first-quarter profits of \$332 million, or 93 cents a share, compared with \$1.04 billion, or \$1.81 a share, a year ago. IBM had warned investors that its first-quarter profits would be only about half of last year's. Akers said he does not expect business to pick up until the economy does. "We're going to have to see an upturn in the economy to see an uptake in our business," he said. Customers have deferred purchases during the recession, meaning there will be pent-up demand in 1992 and beyond when the economy improves, he noted. In reviewing the company's highlights of the last year, Akers cited "good" reviews for IBM's system/390 line, which includes mainframe computers. Shipping began in the third quarter of 1990. The chairman also noted strength in minicomputer products, saying that revenues rose more than 25 per cent. By the end of 1991, IBM will have reduced its staff by about 50,000 from its peak of 406,000 employees in 1985, he said. Last month IBM said it would cut more than 14,000 jobs this year. Also at the meeting, shareholders defeated a proposal for IBM to cut all business ties with South Africa until apartheid ends. About 16 per cent of the company's shares were voted for the proposal, compared with more than 17 per cent last year. South African business represents less than one-half of one per cent of all IBM revenues, which totalled \$69 billion in 1990.

Gorbachev warns West not to write off perestroika

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, apparently concerned at his sinking image abroad, has warned the West not to write off his perestroika reforms and raised the spectre of a new cold war if cooperation ends.

The Soviet leader cited what he described as a "special relationship" with the United States and reaffirmed support for regular superpower summit meetings.

"It is very important for the foreign public and, primarily, for the mass media to understand correctly what is happening and not to make hasty conclusions about a 'change in course' from any new step by the Soviet leadership," he said in remarks published by the Soviet News Agency (TASS) Monday.

"It is hard to predict how many surprises life will bring on us... but the general political line has not changed," Gorbachev said Sunday after meeting media executive Rupert Murdoch at the Kremlin.

Gorbachev has been bitterly attacked at home for adopting a new hardline course and siding with the army, KGB and other conservative elements to try to stem political and economic chaos unleashed by his earlier, tentative reforms.

Those criticisms have also surfaced abroad, tempering the enthusiasm many Western governments once felt for the Soviet leader.

TASS quoted Gorbachev as telling Murdoch he had detected signs — including unnamed political and economic decisions — that showed Washington was "readjusting its attitude" toward

the Soviet Union.

"One needs to think constantly about the special value of relations between two such states and to refrain from putting them to unnecessary tests, let alone at such a critical time."

"If what has been gained at the end of the previous (U.S.) administration and under President George Bush is undermined, the world will again plunge into cold war or 'semi-cold war,'" Gorbachev said.

The Soviet leader built up a huge store of political credit with the West for helping to end the cold war, but there are increasing signs the balance sheet is now tipping against him as his country faces daunting political and economic problems.

His ground-breaking state visit to Japan last month was marred by failure of the two sides to reach a compromise on their long-standing territorial dispute after Gorbachev told his hosts he was too weak politically to make concessions.

Gorbachev also offered some conciliatory words for the United States and repeated a call for regular summits.

"If Washington is still convinced that the scheduled meeting of the two presidents is needed not only by the USSR but also by the United States, then we should advance towards it calmly and steadily," he said.

TASS said Gorbachev reaffirmed "his high appraisal of Bush's position on agreements they had (already) reached."

Both sides have agreed to hold a summit sometime in the first half of 1991, but attempts to set a firm date have been hamstrung by U.S. and NATO charges that

Moscow is not fulfilling the terms of an earlier arms agreement.

Gorbachev, hest with domestic foes, appears to have again postponed plans to pick up his Nobel Peace Prize, a spokesman said Monday.

Gorbachev originally was scheduled to travel to Oslo, Norway, for the ceremony in December, but asked the Nobel Committee to postpone it until May 10 because of domestic tension.

"No preparation have been made, so it doesn't look like he is going on the 10th," Gorbachev's deputy spokesman, Sergei Grigoriev, said Monday.

Gorbachev may try to pick up the prize on May 19th, "or it may be postponed till the summer," Grigoriev said.

The uncertainty over the timing of the trip reflected the disarray throughout Gorbachev's government.

Gorbachev's handling of his domestic problems might not sit well with the committee that awarded him the peace prize last October.

Soviet troops reportedly are being sent to the troubled Armenian-Azerbaijani border region, where hundreds have died in ethnic fighting over the past three years.

The Baltics' quest for independence continues to dog the Soviet leader. Twenty-two people were killed in January when the military moved against the separatist governments of Lithuania and Latvia.

Although Gorbachev denied advance knowledge of the attacks, his failure to condemn the violence was criticised both in the Baltic republics and in the West.



Ryzhkov to stand against Yeltsin in elections

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Former Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov will stand against Boris Yeltsin in the election for the Russian presidency on June 12, the daily Izvestia said.

"Nikolai Ryzhkov (told an Izvestia correspondent) that he would put his name forward for the post of Russian president," the newspaper said.

Ryzhkov, 61, said last week he had been approached by representatives of workers and public organisations seeking to nominate him.

But Ryzhkov, who retired in January after a heart attack the previous month, seems unlikely to be a real threat to Yeltsin, now head of the republic's parliament and by far the most popular political figure in the giant republic.

"Before making his decision, Ryzhkov underwent a medical check and is convinced his health has been completely restored," Izvestia said.

The June 12 poll will be the first time in Soviet history that the president of the Russian Federation is elected by direct popular vote and the winner will get the strongest political power base in the country.

Both Yeltsin and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev were elected to their current posts by the Russian and Soviet upper parliaments respectively.

Regarded as a moderate reformer in the early years of Gorbachev's perestroika programme, Ryzhkov, a former factory director, later opposed radical economic changes and turned to conservatives and the military for support.

Other nominees for the post include former Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin, who now sits on Gorbachev's powerful Security Council, hardline Communist Professor Alexei Sergeyev and three leaders of tiny political parties.

In a separate development, a former official of the Soviet KGB was named Sunday as acting chief of the Russian Republic's new security police, according to news reports.

Burmese Muslims ready to join rebel alliance

BANGKOK (R) — Two Muslim groups said Monday they were ready to join forces with a Burmese rebel alliance in response to what they say is a campaign of repression by the Rangoon military government.

Thousands of Muslims have fled their villages to neighbouring India, Bangladesh and Thailand in recent months, the All-Burma Muslim Union (ABMU) and the Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front (ARIF) said in a joint statement.

Government troops have forced Muslims to work on a section of the Trans-Continental Asian Highway being built with World Bank funds, it said.

"(The government) objective is to subjugate and absorb the indigenous races, to stamp out Islam and to establish militarism in the country," the statement said.

"The Muslims of Burma... have been made targets of genocide, oppression and repression," Muslims account for about 20

per cent of Burma's mostly Buddhist population of 40 million.

The two groups said they wanted "to fight the military shoulder to shoulder" with the Democratic Alliance of Burma.

They would be the first Muslims to join the alliance, which links an array of ethnic guerrilla groups, students and dissidents opposed to a military government ranked among the world's most ruthless.

The alliance shelters a shadow government of opposition politicians but has been kept bottled up in camps along the border with Thailand by the army.

Rangoon-based diplomats, reached by telephone from Bangkok, said they had not heard of either Muslim group previously.

Little love was lost between the Buddhists and the Muslims, they said. They had not heard that the situation had deteriorated notably in recent months, they said.

Hun Sen proposes foreign ceasefire observers

BANGKOK (R) — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has proposed that neutral foreign observers monitor the ceasefire between his government's forces and the Khmer Rouge-led guerrillas alliance.

Cambodian News Agency (SPK) said Hun Sen had written to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Indonesian and French peacekeepers saying the presence of observers acceptable to both sides would increase confidence and pave the way for a formal ceasefire under U.N. control.

The report was seen in Bangkok Monday.

In a separate report, SPK quoted Hun Sen as telling visiting U.S. Senator John Kerry that Phnom Penh was willing to allow any groups or individuals into Cambodia to verify there were no more Vietnamese troops in the country.

The guerrillas have charged that up to 50,000 Vietnamese soldiers are still in Cambodia despite their official withdrawal in September 1989.

The ceasefire, the first in 12 years of warfare, came into effect on May 1 with both sides accusing the other of immediately violating it.

But Thai military officers were optimistic Monday that the truce would hold despite a continuing war of words between Phnom Penh and the guerrilla factions.

The 700 kilometres border between Thailand and Cambodia, where the sounds of gunfire have been heard for many years, has been quiet since May 2, soldiers said.

The ceasefire is intended to create an atmosphere of cooperation before more peace talks between the warring factions, expected to be held in Indonesia next month.

The peace talk, originally expected this month, would be the precursor to an international conference in Paris to try to persuade the Cambodians to end their war and allow the United Nations to run the country until elections can be held.

"Pailin is under the control of the Khmer Rouge and the sound of gunfire has ceased since last week," Vice-Admiral Preeda Nanchanarai, commander of a Marine task force stationed opposite that gen-mining centre, told Reuters by telephone.

He had heard a report that sporadic exchanges of gunfire might have taken place near Treng, 20 kilometres east of Pailin. He did not regard that as significant, he said.

He said 2,000 Khmer Rouge guerrillas who fled heavy fighting two weeks ago were still inside Thailand.

Underworld killers murder eight in Italy drug war

TAURIANOVA, Italy (AP) — Underworld killers locked in a savage drug war murdered eight people in three days and laughed as they butchered one before dozens of terrified witnesses, police said.

Police said most if not all of the killings Thursday, Friday and Saturday were ordered by two crime families fighting to control a drug trade worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year in the toe of the Italian boot.

The gunmen worked savagely and sometimes gleefully, killing with a barbarism that police said was intended to send a message to the living.

One victim was beheaded by laughing gunmen who held the severed head aloft before about 30 horrified witnesses and then repeatedly tossed it in the air for target practice.

Another victim of what police call "black Friday" in Taurianova was killed by 19 blasts from sawed-off shotguns that left the body difficult to identify.

Investigators believe the dead in Taurianova and three others killed Saturday night in a bar in nearby Laureana di Borrello were victims of the war between the Zagari-Avignone-Viola and the Ascinto-La Ficarra-Alampri crime families.

The two families are fighting to replace the late Mimmo Giovannazzo, who was killed in March of 1990, as the boss of bosses in the "Ndrangheta, the name of the underworld in Calabria.

So far this year, 105 people have been killed in Calabria, 74 of them in and around Reggio di Calabria, a city of about 90,000 and the capital of the southern province that has had Italy's highest murder rate for 30 years.

Tonio Tuoi, a University of Calabria sociology professor who

has studied Italian murder for 30 years, said killings are increasing at an alarming rate.

He said since 1960 the murder rate has risen from an annual average of 2.9 to 15.2 people for every 100,000 in the population. He told the newspaper Il Messaggero that in some areas around Reggio di Calabria there are 32 and in nearby Gioia Tauro 51 for every 100,000.

Tuoi said that is four to six times higher than the average murder rate in the United States and significantly exceeds the 17.1 per 100,000 recorded in New York and New Jersey during high crime years.

Government crime statistics show Taurianova, a town of about 12,000, has one of the largest concentrations of underworld gang members.

A recent report issued by Interior Minister Vincenzo Scotti said there are no less than 20 "Ndrangheta clans in Taurianova with more than 400 members."

Two of them killed delatessen owner Giuseppe Grimaldi, 54, and his brother Giovanni, 59, on "black Friday."

Giuseppe saw his two masked killers approaching with sawed-off shotguns. He grabbed a large knife and tried, with his brother, to flee into the streets.

Both were shot down as they ran. The killers stood over the bodies and fired another shot into each man's chest. One gunman used the large knife to sever Giuseppe's head.

Police said the killings were intended as a message for Giuseppe's 21-year-old son Vincenzo, imprisoned for drug trafficking and racketeering.

The killings began Thursday when a reputed boss was shot six times with a shotgun as he got a shave at a local barbershop.

Armenians, Azeris fight with tanks, heavy machineguns

MOSCOW (R) — Armenians and Azeris are fighting with tanks and heavy machineguns in the southern Soviet Union, the main Communist Party daily Pravda said Monday.

"Armenia and Azerbaijan are only a step away from inter-republican war... war is already being waged — tanks and heavy machineguns are firing. There are dead, wounded and prisoners," it said.

"Urgent and decisive measures are required... every day and every hour of delay means not only new casualties, but unpredictable, possibly tragic, consequences."

In an emergency debate Monday, Armenian Deputy Nynuton Grigoryan told the Soviet Parliament that 37 people had been killed in the past week and several seriously wounded in fighting around the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Handreds have been killed in the last three years in the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in Azerbaijan populated by Armenians and claimed by both

republics.

A Soviet parliamentary committee was due to report to deputies on the latest violent flare-up, which followed Soviet and Azerbaijani Interior Ministry operations against Armenian-populated villages in Azerbaijan.

Grigoryan said Soviet and Azerbaijani forces, with tanks and heavy artillery, were conducting an unprecedented action with the aim of forcibly deporting Armenians from villages in Azerbaijan.

Hardline Soviet Interior Minister Boris Pugo made clear that the Kremlin backed the Azerbaijani view that the troops were rounding up illegal armed groups in the villages of Getashen and Martunashen.

Pugo told parliament 30 Armenians and Azeris had been killed in the recent violence. He denied Armenian charges that Moscow was helping Azerbaijan deport Armenians, saying hundreds of people were being evacuated voluntarily.

Large quantities of arms and plans for guerrilla attacks were found in Getashen and Martunashen, just north of Nagorno-Karabakh, Pugo said.

"Armed groups coming from Armenia have been detained more than once in these settlements," he said.

Pravda also denied that Soviet Interior Ministry troops were involved in punitive operations against Armenians. "This is a deliberate lie aimed at discrediting the boys in uniform," it said.

It said Soviet forces were carrying out their duty by disarming illegal armed groups. "More than 100 firearms, 7,000 rounds of ammunition and about half a tonne of explosives have been seized in the region since April 15."

Russian Federation Communist Party leader Ivan Polozkov told the conservative daily Sovetskaya Rossiya that the conflict resulted from "extremist actions by nationalist circles."

The independent Interfax News Agency said shooting was taking place day and night around Nagorno-Karabakh and along the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Soldier dies in new Yugoslav violence

BELGRADE (R) — A Yugoslav soldier was killed by gunfire Monday during an anti-army protest by 30,000 people in the Croatian port city of Split, Tanjug News Agency said.

The protest followed bloody clashes last week between Serbs and Croats, Yugoslavia's biggest ethnic groups, in which 17 people were killed. The state presidency has ordered the army to prevent more clashes in the Republic of Croatia.

Tanjug said the protesters surrounded a naval base in Split to protest against roads being blocked in parts of Croatia because of the unrest and attacked two army transporters. It did not say how the soldier died.

Entrances to the industrial city on the Adriatic coast were blocked, the agency added. It was not clear whether the clashes had ended.

Violence also erupted in eastern Croatia overnight. Shooting broke out and explosions wrecked buildings in the towns of Vukovar, Sibenik and Borovo but no casualties were reported.

Serbs and Croats, traditional rivals, erected new barricades and armed civilians took to the streets, sealing off many villages and towns and increasing food shortages, Tanjug said.

Tanks and armoured vehicles patrolled troublespots after the state presidency Sunday ordered the army to prevent new clashes

following gun battles between Serbs and Croatian police Thursday.

The presidency said Yugoslavia was on the brink of civil war.

"Urgent measures must be taken to calm the situation in this area because any further delay would lead to a worse situation and even greater consequences, threatening many lives and state property," Vukovar town authorities said.

Police in Vukovar said explosions had wrecked a house and a cafe in the nearby town of Borovo. Tanjug said armed civilians prevented many workers from entering the Borovo Rubber and Footwear Factory Monday.

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S. African weekend death toll hits 52

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Police said Monday at least 52 people had been killed in fighting in black townships in some of the bloodiest clashes in months between the African National Congress (ANC) and the rival Inkatha Party.

A police statement issued Monday said at least 29 people were killed in political violence during the past 24 hours — most of them in black townships around Johannesburg. The death count raised the toll for the weekend to at least 52 dead with scores injured, police said.

The ANC, meanwhile, rejected suggestion that Nelson Mandela and other ANC leaders might join the cabinet to end a mounting political crisis between the government and the black opposition group.

ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma said the group was not willing to serve under President F.W. de Klerk and wanted a transitional government. Newspaper reports said de Klerk might offer Mandela and others cabinet posts.

The ANC has threatened to suspend talks with the government on sharing power if de Klerk does not meet its demands to end violence in black townships by Thursday.

The demands include dismissing the ministers of police and defence and disbanding security units accused of helping to inflame the unrest. De Klerk has rejected the demands, but said he is trying to find a compromise.

The political crisis deepened with Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's threat to boycott a proposed peace conference because of what Buthelezi called

police collusion with the ANC.

De Klerk has a multi-party conference for May 24-25 on the violence, which mostly involves ANC and Inkatha's Zulu supporters. The ANC has said it will boycott the conference, and Buthelezi initially said he would attend.

Another Inkatha official, Musa Myeni, told reporters Sunday that Inkatha would send 100,000 armed members into Soweto if the ANC failed to halt clashes in the township outside Johannesburg. South African press reports said other Inkatha officials claimed they would field 250,000 armed members.

"Despite police using every resource at their disposal to protect people, they cannot cope with a systematic approach to destabilise the country," said Myeni.

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"Despite police using every resource at their disposal to protect people, they cannot cope with a systematic approach to destabilise the country," said Myeni.

Kaifu ends five-nation tour of Asia

MANILA (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu ended Monday a five-nation tour of South East Asia during which he raised Tokyo's diplomatic profile in the region and strongly backed the U.S. military presence in Asia.

"There have been almost in unison, expressions of hope for a more active Japanese role in the region," Japanese spokesman Sadaaki Numata said at the end of the tour.

Kaifu and his wife, Sachiko, were given a warm farewell by Philippine President Corazon Aquino after their three-day visit to Manila.

In talks Sunday, Kaifu urged the 58-year-old President to take the lead in pushing through possible painful reforms of the Philippine economy.

While backing moves to restructure the Philippines' \$29 billion overseas debt, he bluntly told Aquino that Japan could not support any Poland-style debt write-off. Japan is Manila's largest aid donor, pledging \$1.5 billion to the Philippines for this year.

Throughout his 10-day trip, which also took him to Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand and Singapore, Kaifu stressed Tokyo's regret for

the suffering caused by Japan in World War II and vowed his country would never again become a military power.

He did not explicitly discuss the deadlocked negotiations between the United States and the Philippines on American military bases in the country, but emphasised that a U.S. military presence was essential for Asian security.

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Puerto Rico to push for expanded powers

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (R) — Puerto Rico may have lost a key battle in the U.S. Congress this spring but its governor has not quit his fight for greater independence from the United States.

A blueprint aimed at gaining more powers under the unique Commonwealth status of the U.S. Caribbean territory is being drawn up by Governor Rafael Hernandez Colon and members of his party. It will be issued early this week.

Puerto Rico's relationship with the United States has been at the centre of the 3,000-square-mile (7,700-square-kilometre) island's politics for decades. Its three political parties are sharply divided over Puerto Rico's status — whether it should be a state, a Commonwealth or independent.

The drive for Puerto Rico's independence has spawned one of the United States' few violent extremist movements, although it had been greatly weakened by

federal and Commonwealth surveillance in recent years.

The proposed changes in Puerto Rico's Commonwealth status, which would require approval by the U.S. Congress, will likely include seeking authority to regulate its own tariffs, shipping rates and air routes, Hernandez Colon told Reuters in an interview.

"I would like to see Puerto Rico have greater self-government while it has a greater and deeper union with the United States," said Hernandez Colon, whose office looks out over Spanish colonial fortress walls.

"The Commonwealth arrangement suits us well, but an expanded Commonwealth would suit us even better," Hernandez Colon added.

Puerto Rico was ceded to the United States after the Spanish-American War in 1898. Its residents are U.S. citizens but cannot vote for president or have a vot-

ing representative in Congress. They pay no federal income taxes.

Political analysts suggest the expansion of powers might propose designating Puerto Rico as an independent state that freely associates with the United States. That status would preserve U.S. citizenship for residents but give the island greater control over its affairs.

Hernandez Colon refused to say what action he would take after the proposals are announced, except to say they would be discussed at a meeting of his Popular Democratic Party in June.

Ricardo Alegria, director of the Centre for Advanced Studies of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, said he expected Hernandez Colon to push Washington for changes before the next Puerto Rican elections in November 1992.

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Carnegie Hall celebrates 100th birthday

NEW YORK (R) — New York's premier concert hall celebrated its 100th birthday with a once-in-a-lifetime night of concerts that drew many of the greatest names in classical music to the hall they love best.

"If ever there was a building that had a soul — this is it," said violinist Isaac Stern as he summed up what Carnegie Hall meant to him and to thousands of other musicians who either made their debuts there or knew they had achieved stardom when they appeared there. Stern was the man who led the campaign in the late 1950s to save the hall from being demolished to make way for a skyscraper. A who's who of classical music paraded across the stage from 17-year-old violinist Midori to 63-year-old cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, all supported by 106 members of the New York Philharmonic for two back-to-back concerts that recalled many of the hall's great moments. The air was rich with music by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Wagner, Mozart and that most American of composers, Aaron Copland. The evening was televised across the United States and beamed to Europe, Japan and the Soviet Union by a team of cameramen wearing tuxedos for the occasion.

Gunmen steal 250 kg of gold ingots in shoot-out in Italy

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — Gunmen stole gold ingots worth about \$3 million from an armoured van after a dawn shoot-out in which a security guard was wounded. Police said four masked men ambushed the security van on a motorway near the small town of Barberino Di Mugello, north of Florence. The gunmen opened fire on the guards who shot back. The gang fled with the 250 kg (550 pounds) of ingots after wounding one of the guards, police said.

Snake on statue's neck portends storm for Thais

BANGKOK (R) — A four-metre-long (13-foot) python that wrapped itself around the neck of a statue of a beloved admiral has choked off the optimism of the people of a southern Thai province still recovering from a devastating 1989 typhoon. Hundreds of people in Chumphon rushed to see the snake on the statue of Admiral Krommaluang Chumphon Ket Udomsak, the founder of the Royal Thai Navy, the mass-circulation Thai Rath newspaper reported Sunday.

"Many local residents felt that the unusual phenomenon was a particularly grim omen for the province," the Thai-language paper said. Typhoon Gay killed more than 500 people on land and many hundreds of fishermen from south Thailand were lost at sea. A snake wrapped itself around the neck of another statue of the admiral, a sort of patron saint for local fishermen, just before Gay struck, residents said. Police were investigating how the snake climbed onto the life-size statue. They said a preliminary check indicated it slithered there itself.

Bulgarians cheer princess at soccer match

SOFIA (R) — Fifteen thousand Bulgarians cheered the sister of ex-king Simeon, Princess Maria-Louiza, when she attended a soccer match in Sofia Sunday. The princess, 58, is the first member of the exiled royal family to visit their homeland since they went into exile 45 years ago. "I like to watch football because my sons are great soccer fans," the princess, who now lives in New Jersey, told Bulgarian television before the match between Levski Spartak and CSKA. The princess arrived in Sofia Friday for a week-long private visit to the country she left with Simeon when he was only six years old, after abolition of the monarchy was approved by a Communist-promoted referendum. A crowd of about 50,000, some chanting "we want Simeon, we want our king" was waiting to greet her in the city centre. The princess was accompanied to the soccer match by Konstantin Trenchev, right-wing leader of the independent trade union Podkrepa, which supports return of the monarchy. The exiled king, who lives in Madrid, said last month that restoration would be the best way to revitalise the country after four decades of Communist rule.